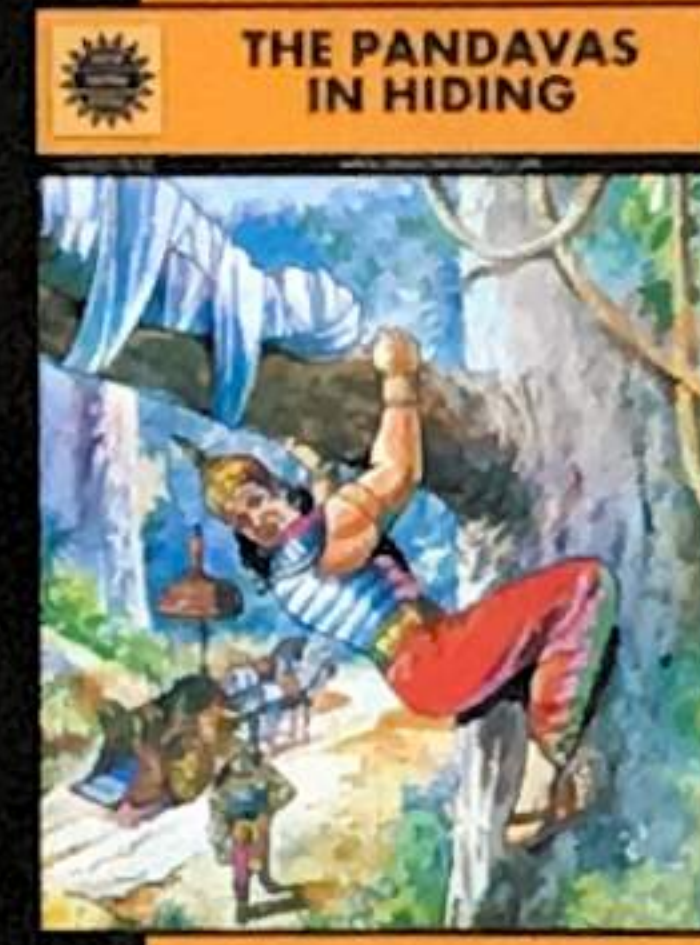
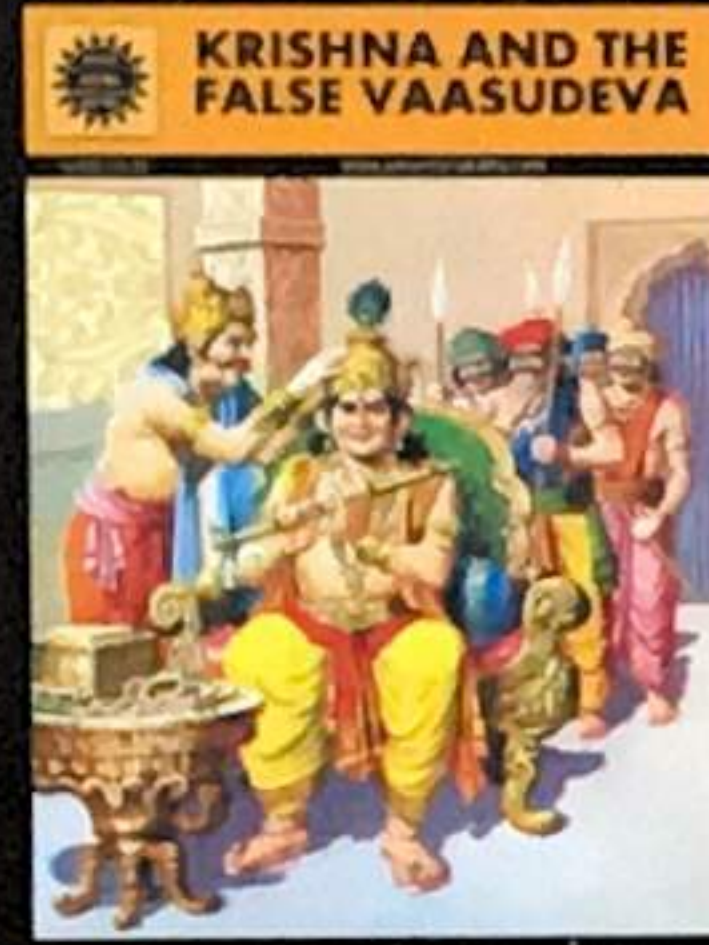


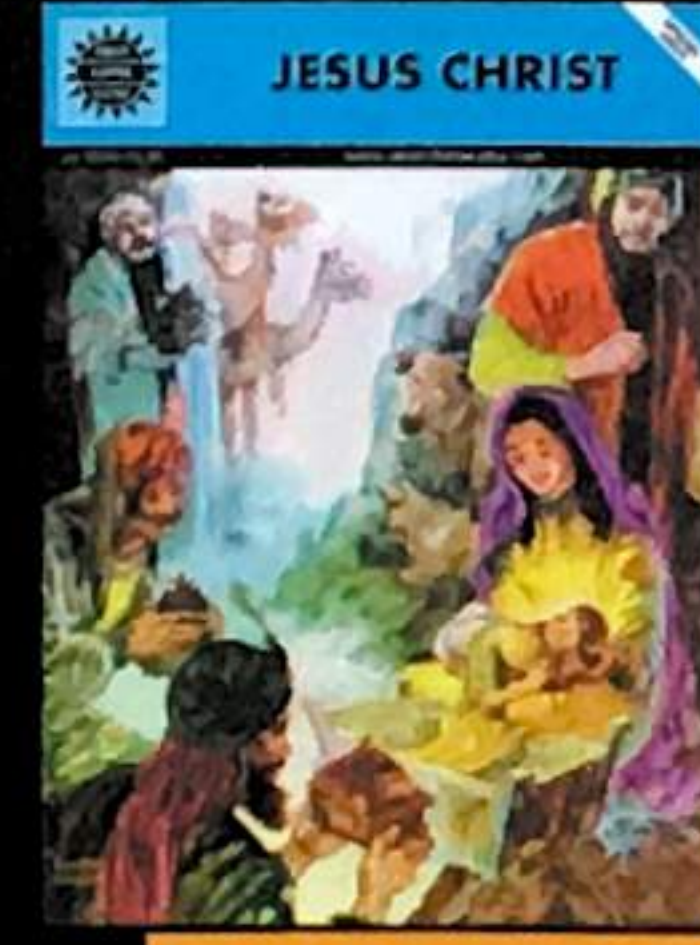
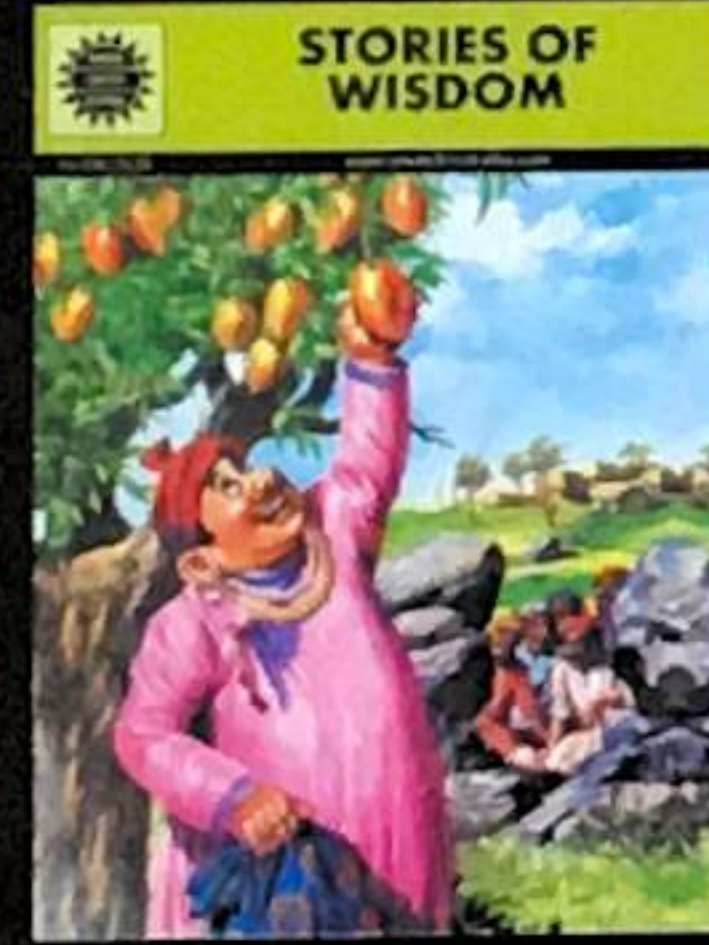
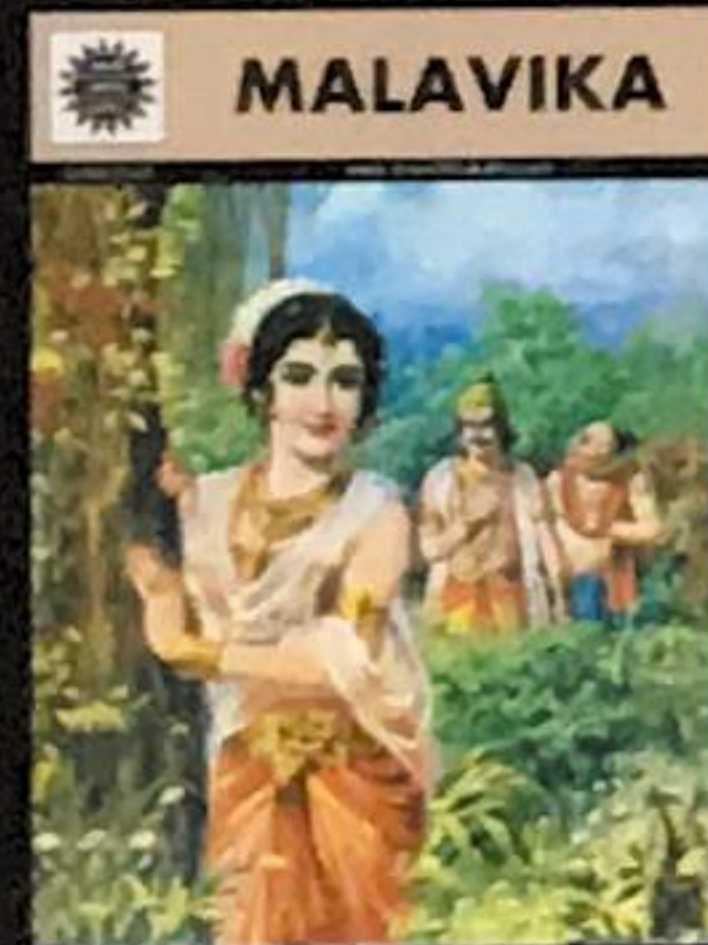
## TALES OF NARADA

Sage Narada symbolises unqualified devotion to Lord Vishnu, also known as Narayana. He is inseparable from his veena and has the name of Lord Narayana always on his lips. In the Puranic stories, it is Narada who puts the Lord's devotees to test. But when he himself is put to test will the celestial sage emerge victorious?

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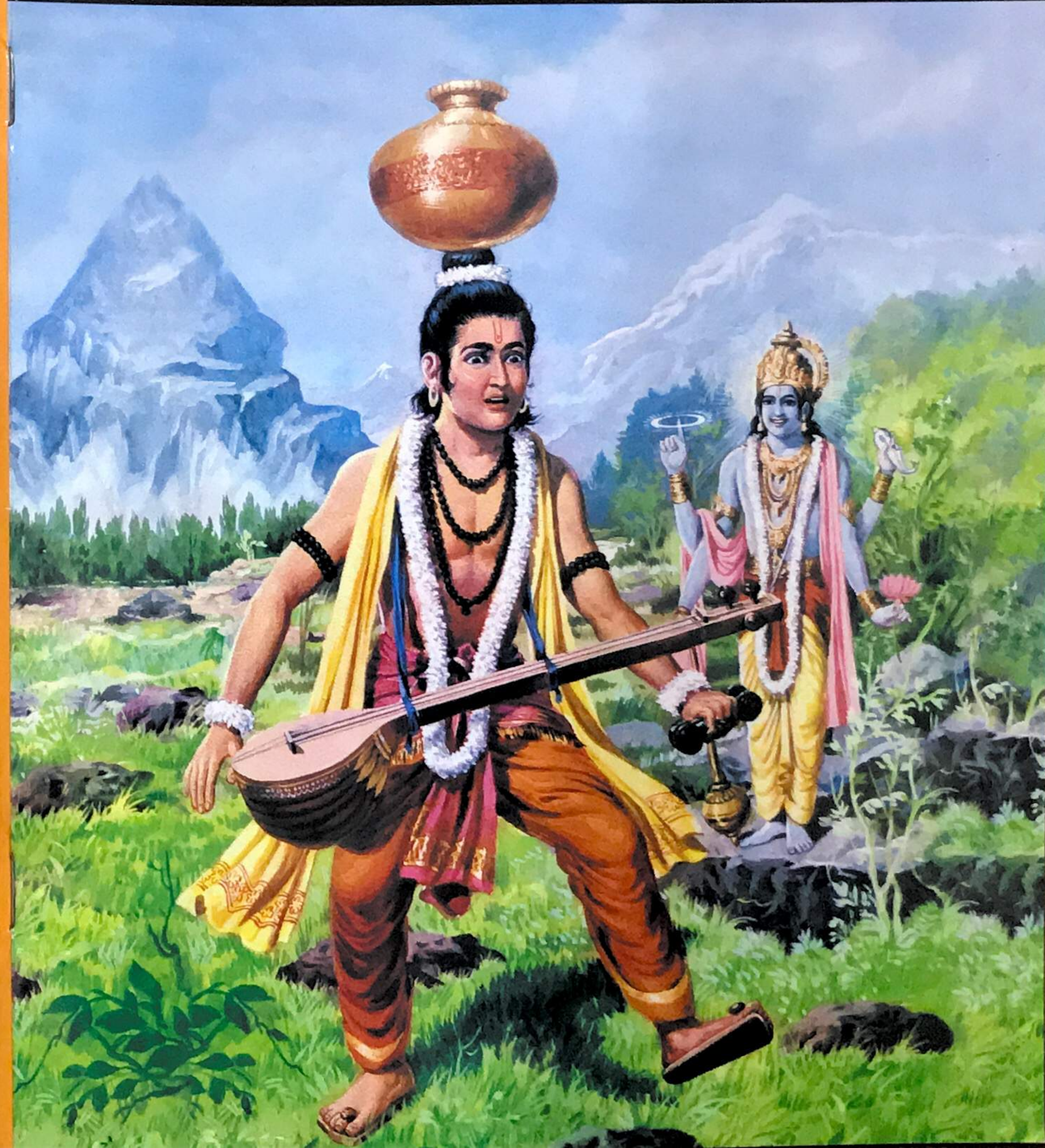
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# TALES OF NARADA

TALES OF DEVOTION AND RIVALRY

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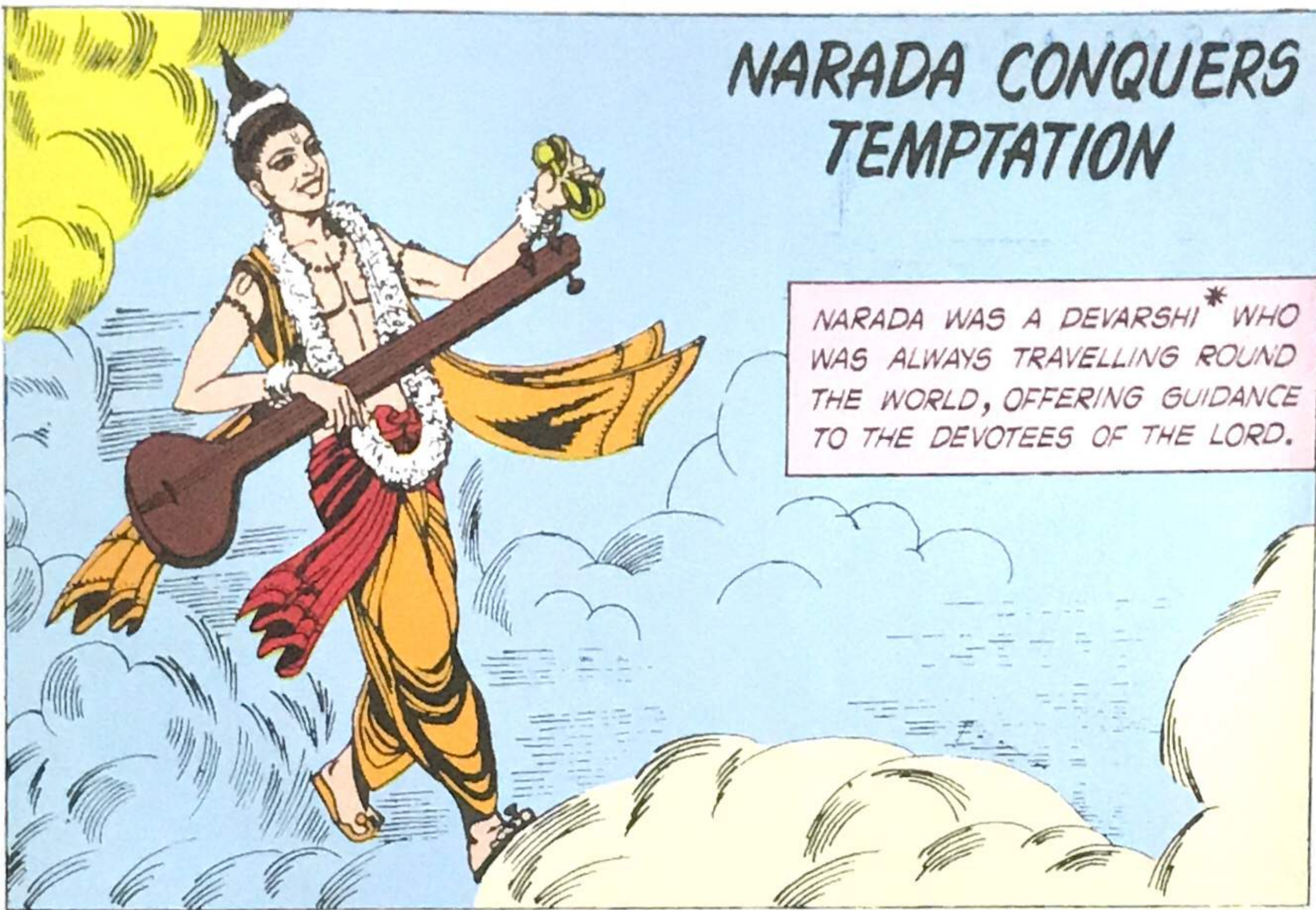


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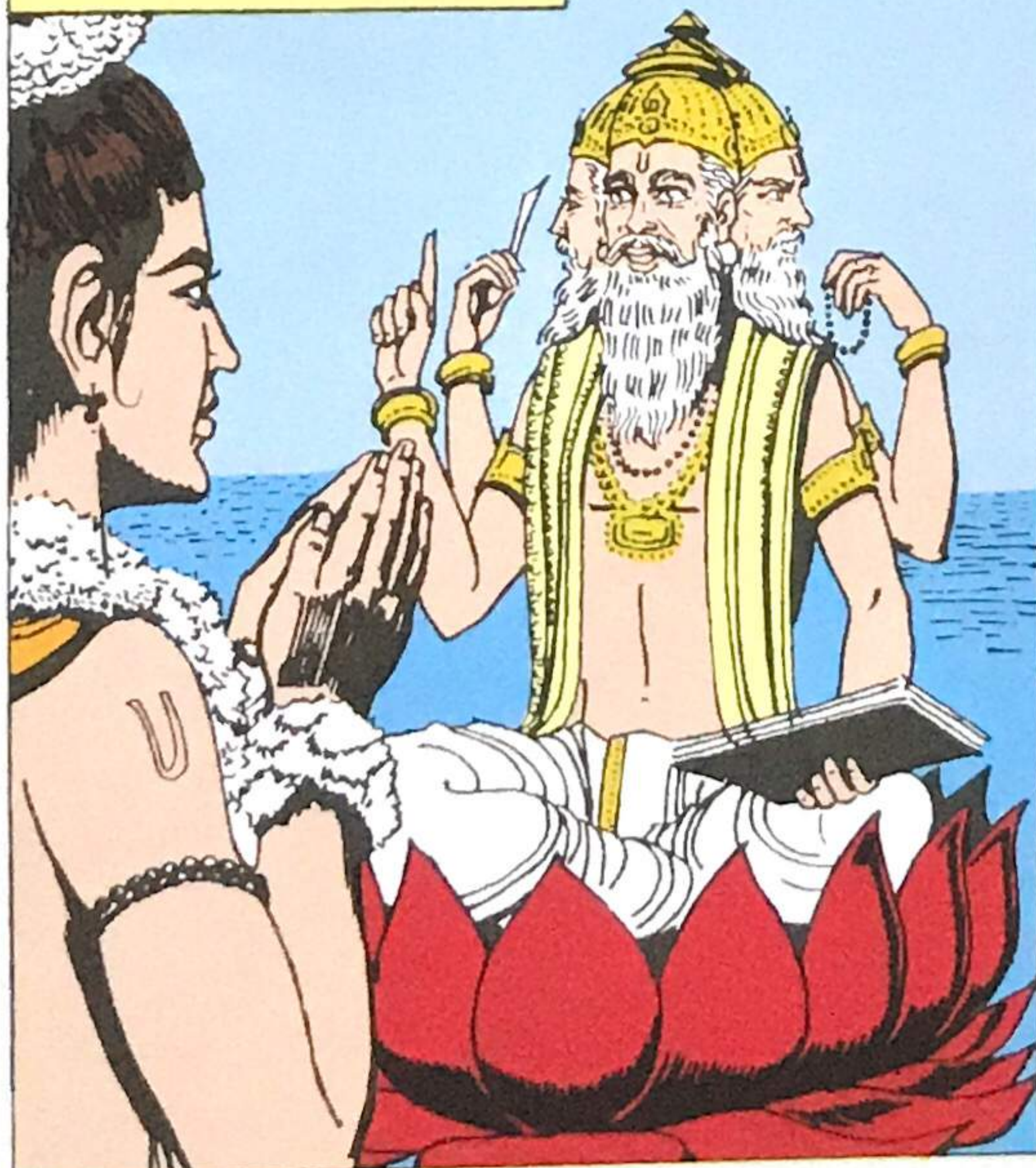


# NARADA CONQUERS TEMPTATION

NARADA WAS A DEVARSHI\* WHO WAS ALWAYS TRAVELLING ROUND THE WORLD, OFFERING GUIDANCE TO THE DEVOTEES OF THE LORD.



AFTER HAVING GAINED TRUE KNOWLEDGE FROM HIS FATHER, BRAHMA...



... HE TOOK THE VOW OF CELIBACY.

I SHALL NOT MARRY. I WILL SERVE LORD NARAYANA.†





NARADA PRACTISED SEVERE AUSTERITIES IN THE HIMALAYAS.



INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS, BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF NARADA'S MOTIVES. HE SPOKE TO BRIHASPATI \* ABOUT IT.



I WONDER WHAT HE IS AFTER.

IT COULD BE YOUR THRONE.

WHAT SHALL I DO?  
AH! I COULD TEMPT HIM  
WITH WORLDLY PLEASURES  
AND MAKE HIM SWERVE  
FROM HIS PATH.



WITH THIS IN MIND, INDRA SENT FOR KAMADEVA.\* \*

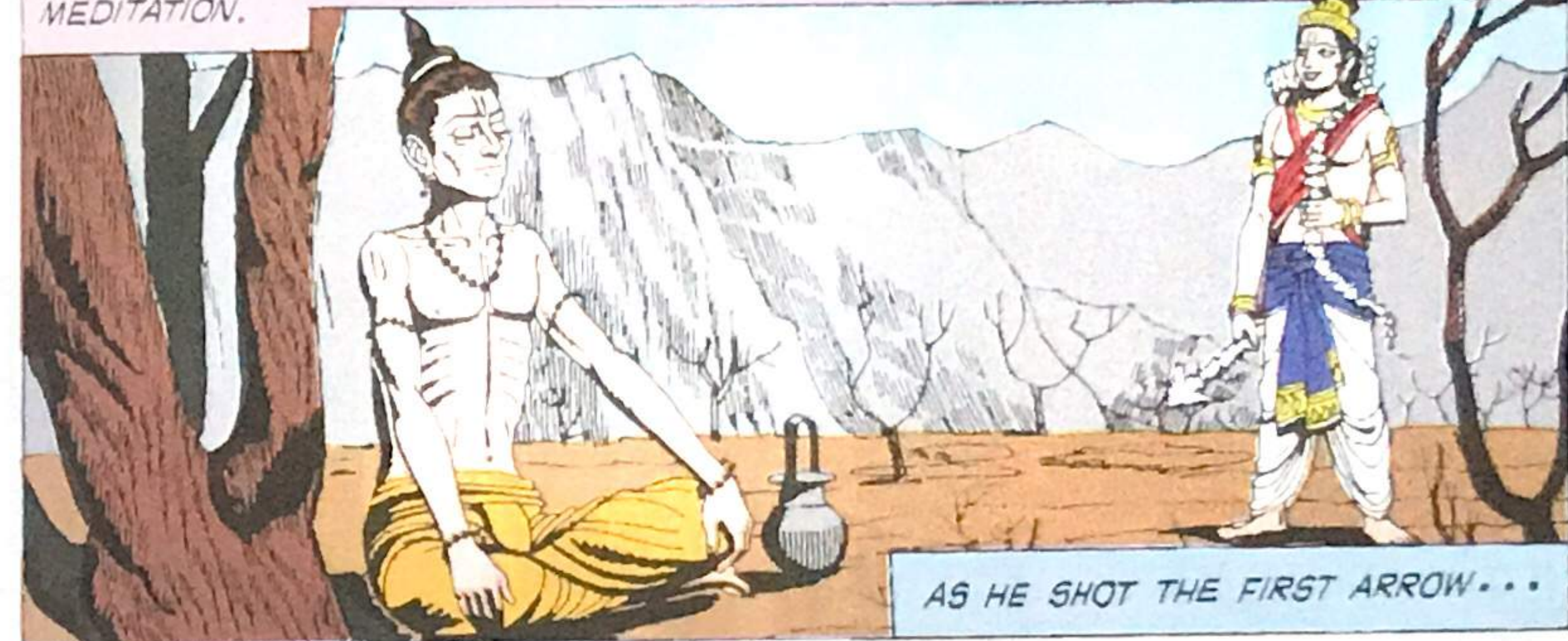


KAMA,  
I NEED YOUR HELP.  
YOU MUST MAKE  
NARADA GIVE UP  
HIS AUSTERITIES.

I'LL TRY,  
MY LORD.

\* THE ROYAL PRECEPTOR OF THE DEVAS \* \* THE GOD OF LOVE

KAMA CAME TO THE COLD, BARREN SPOT WHERE NARADA WAS SITTING, DEEP IN MEDITATION.

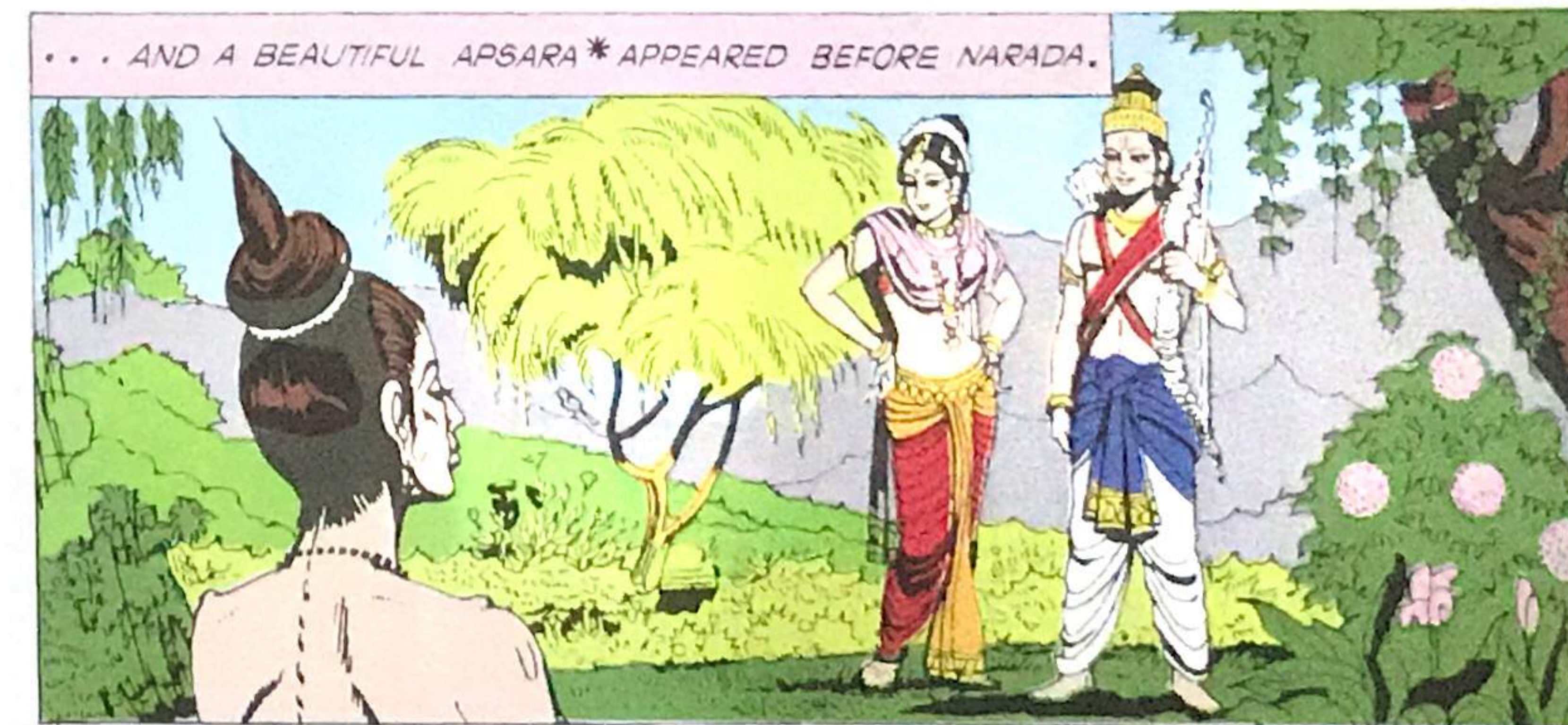


AS HE SHOT THE FIRST ARROW...

... THE SCENE SUDDENLY CHANGED ...

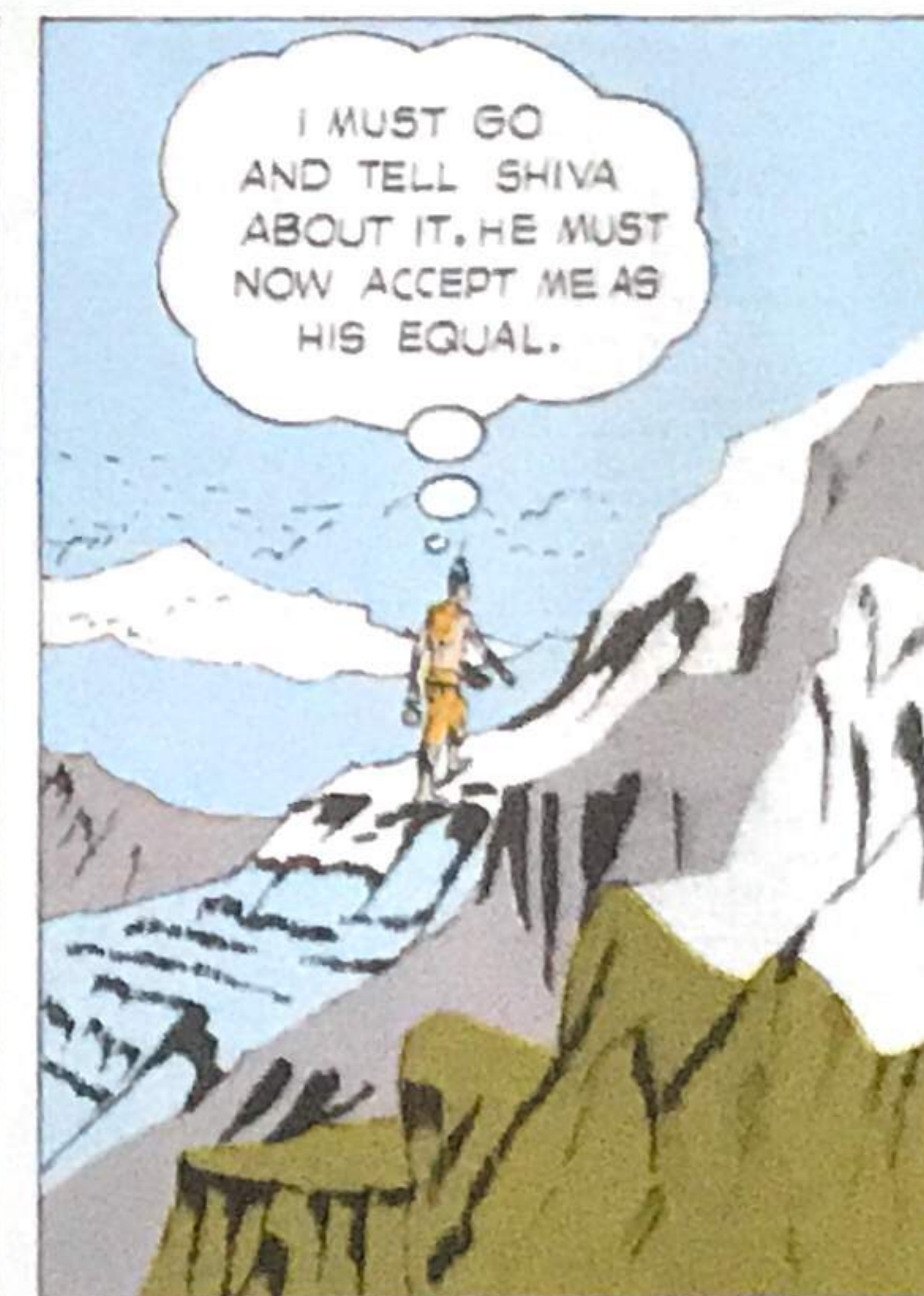
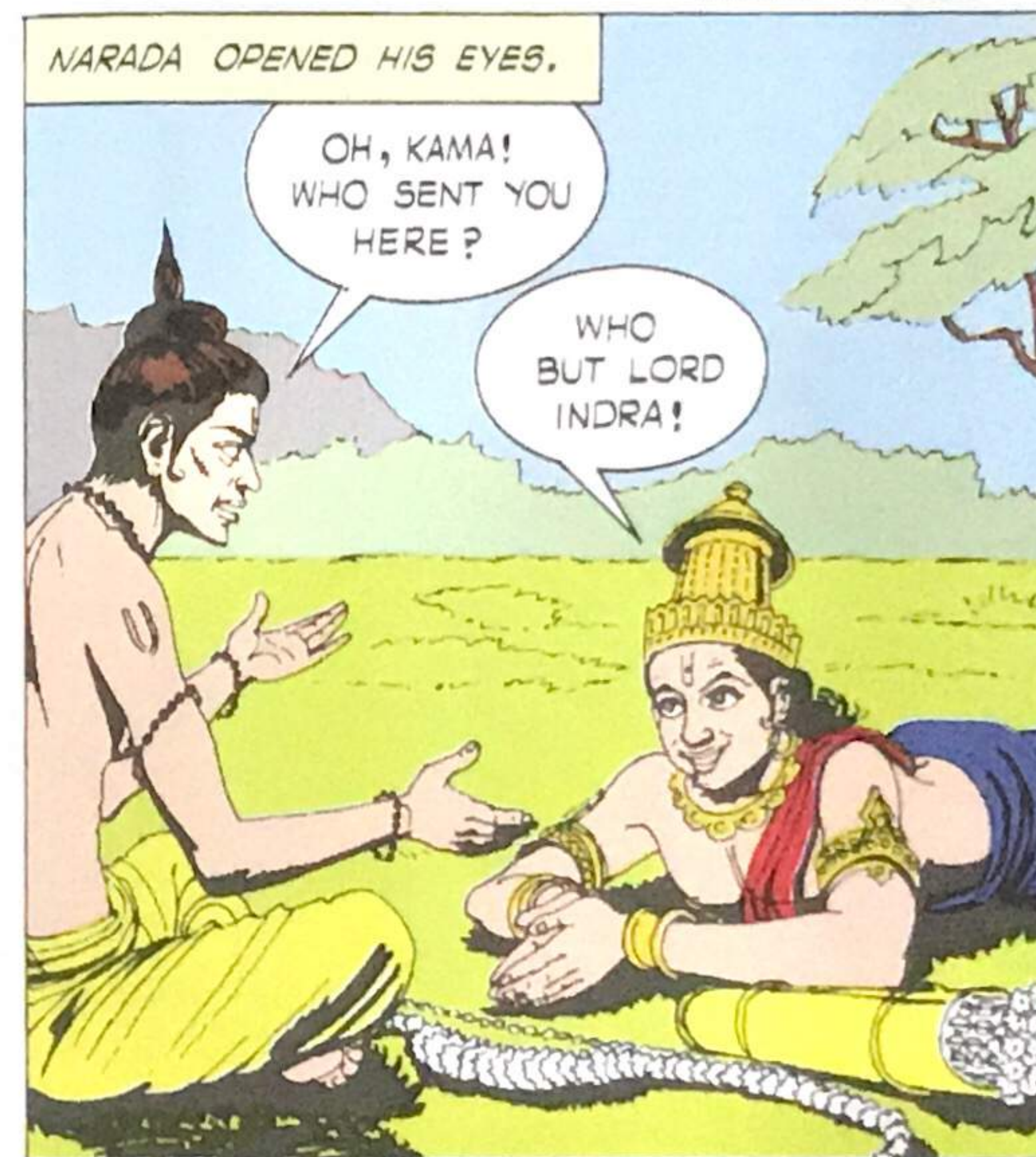
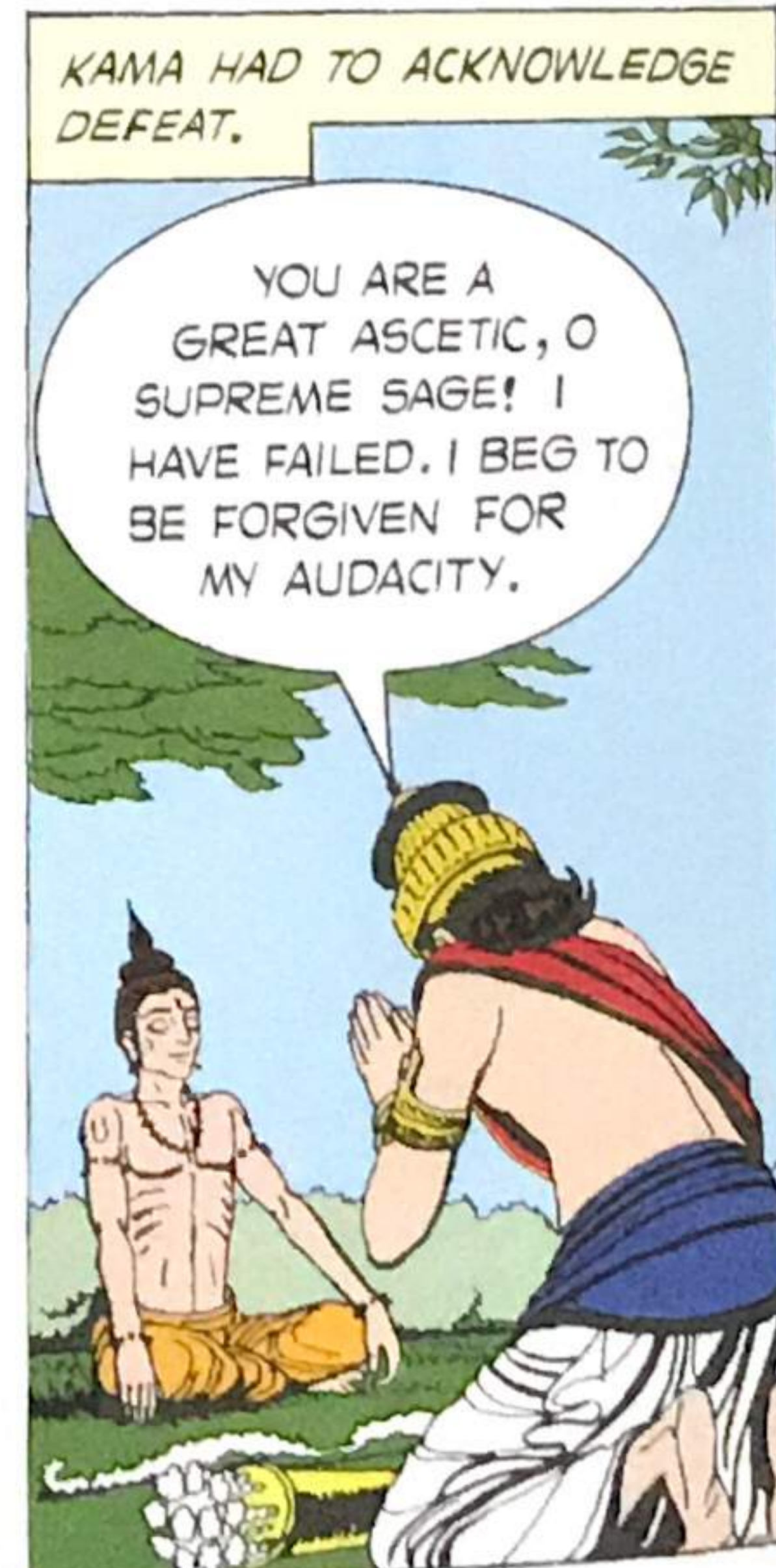
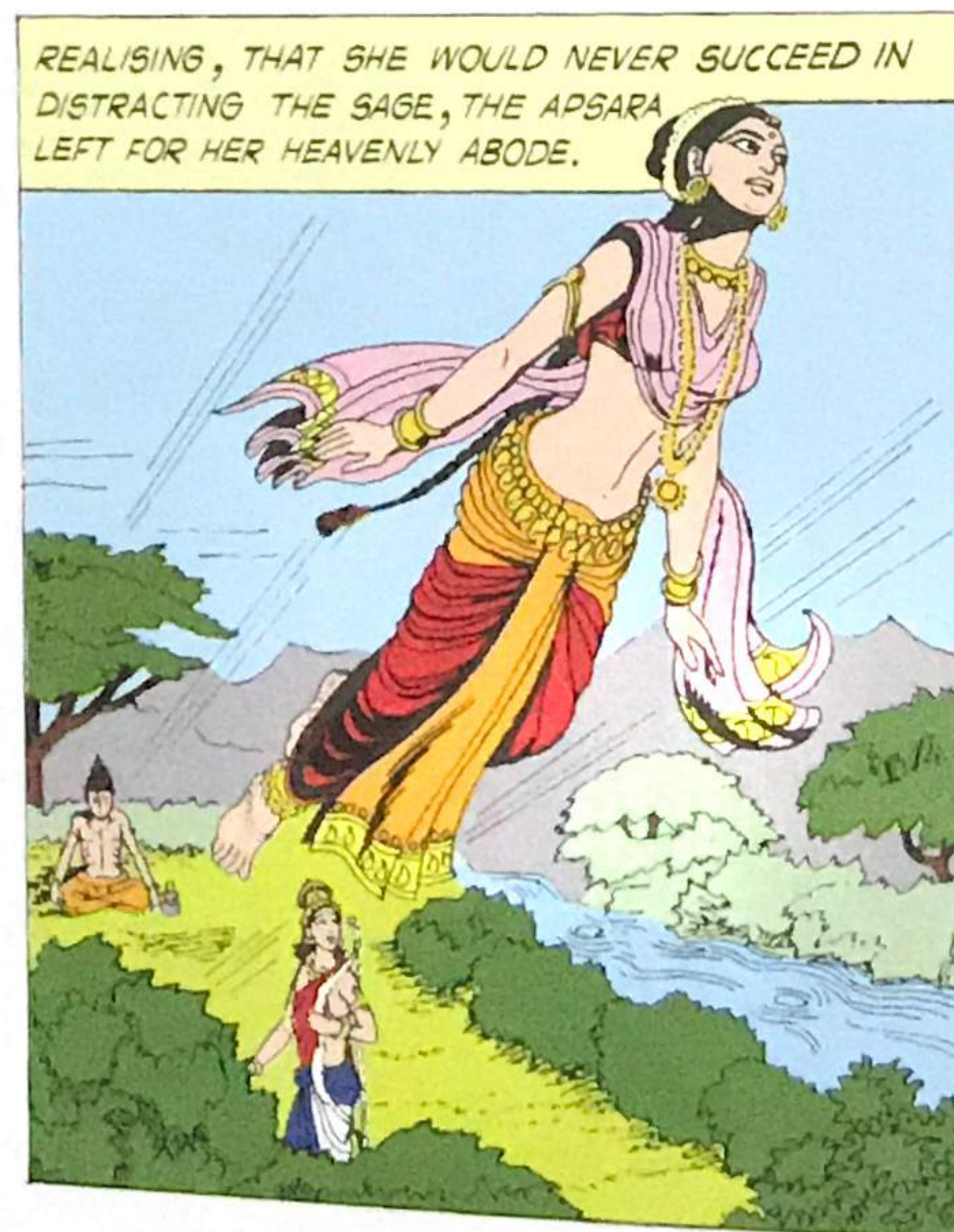
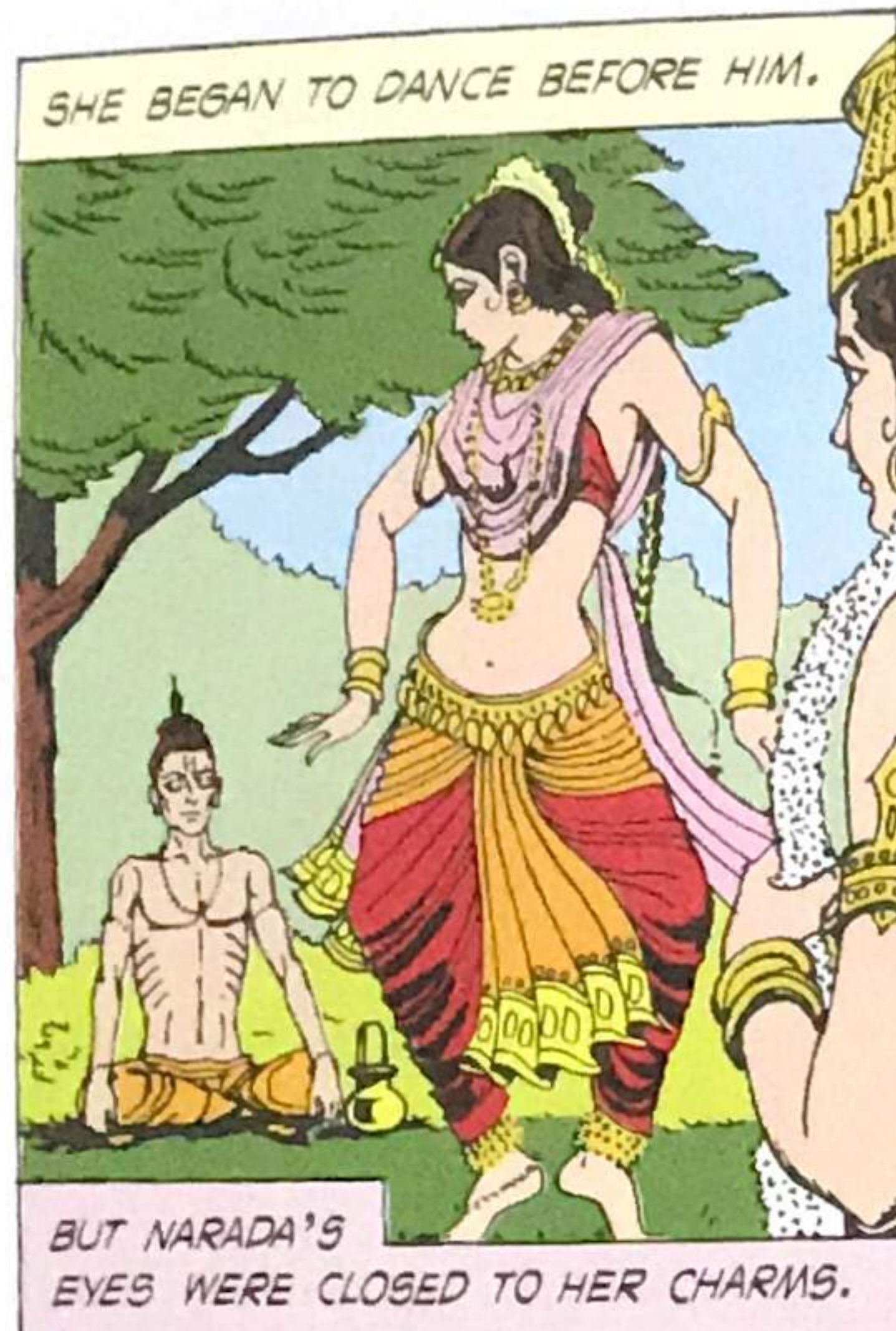


... AND A BEAUTIFUL APSARA \* APPEARED BEFORE NARADA.

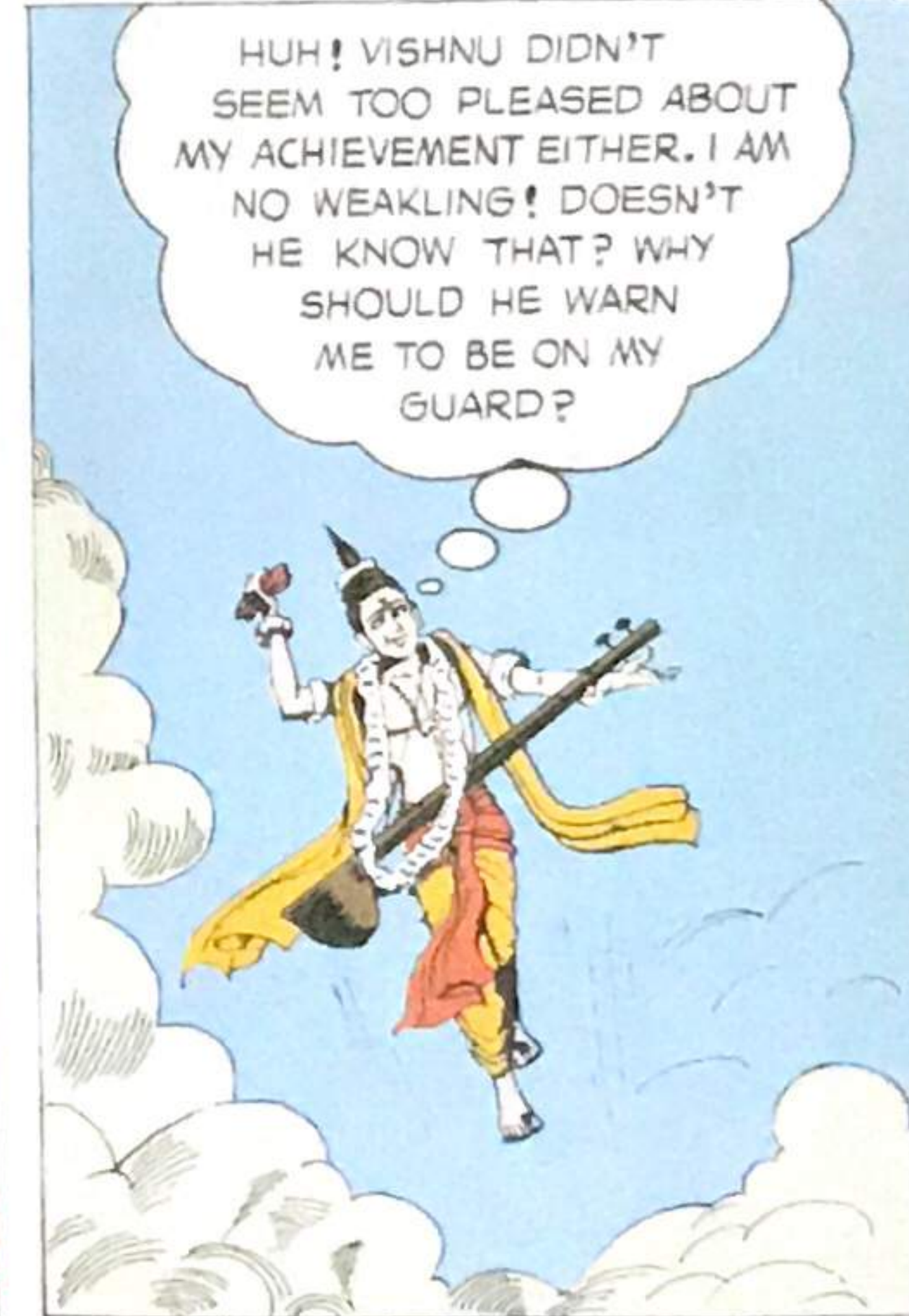
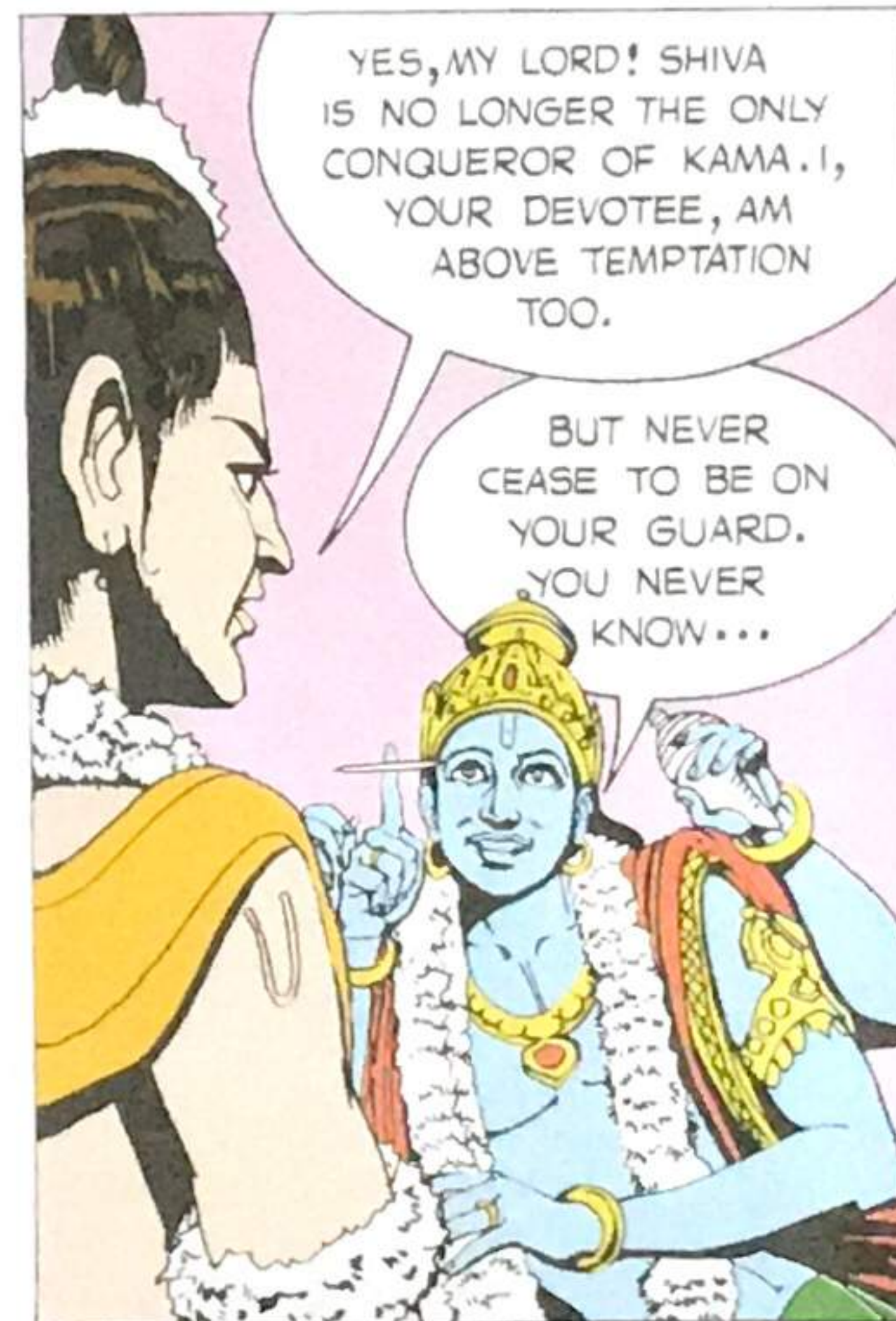
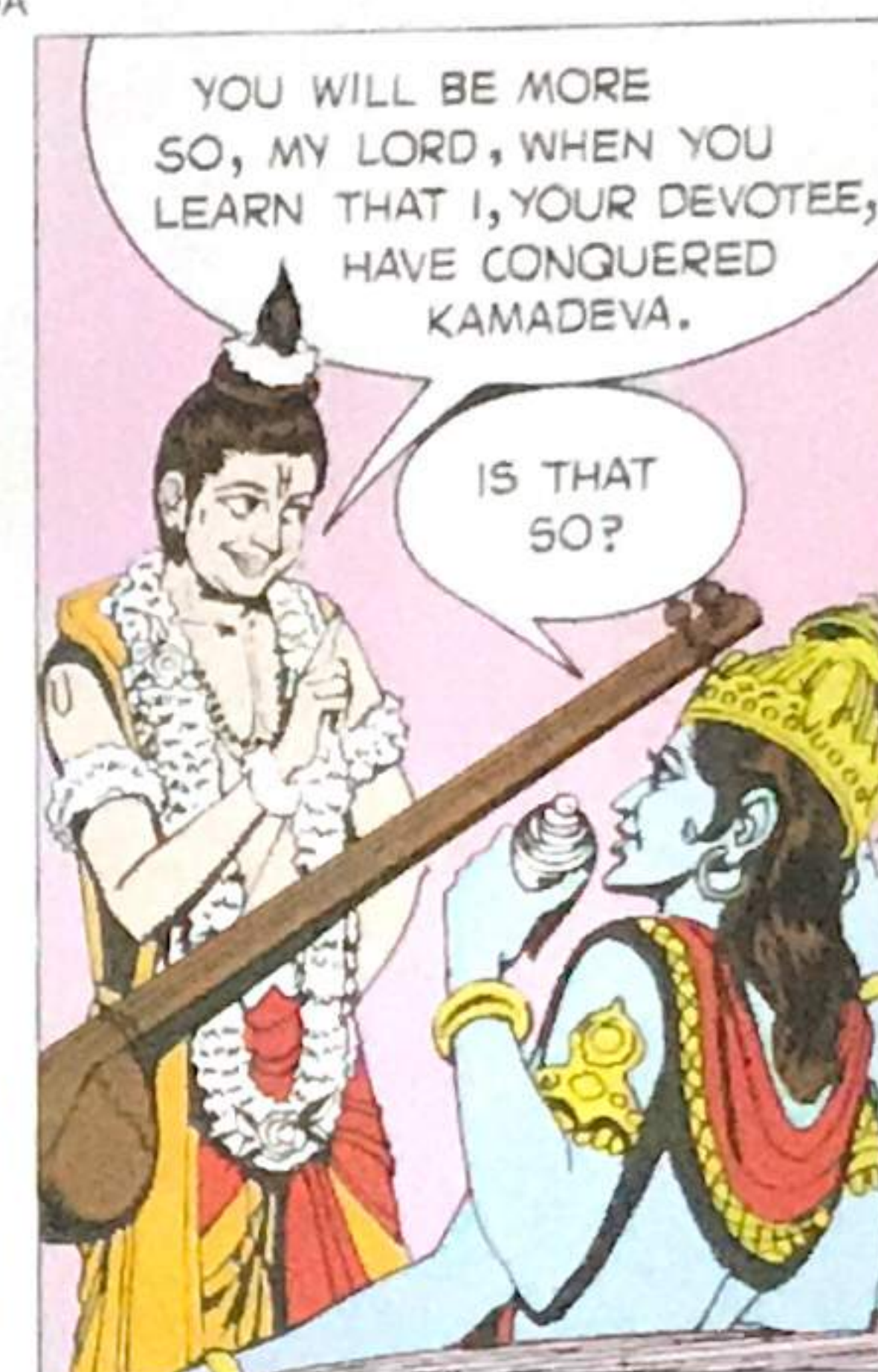
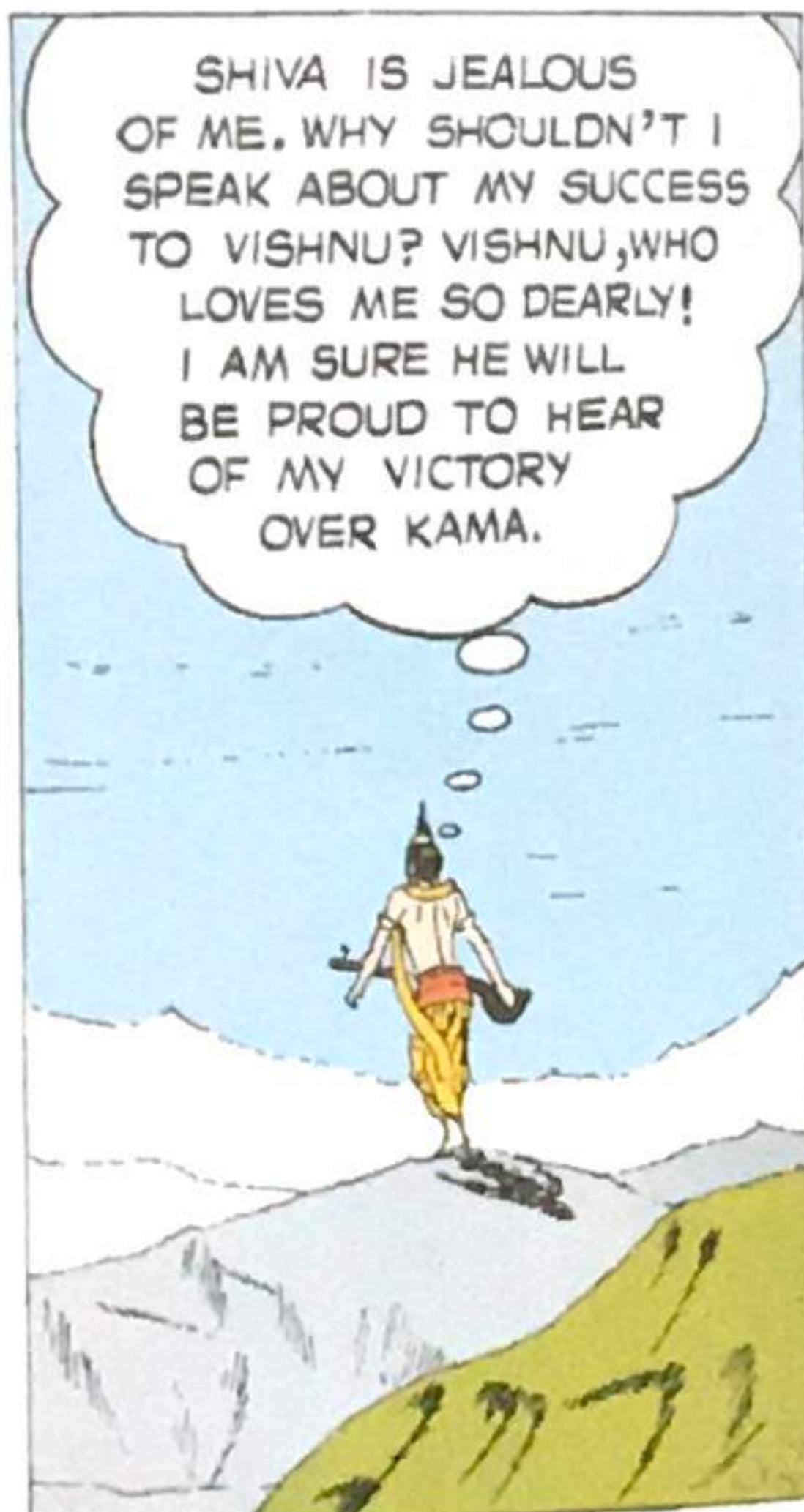
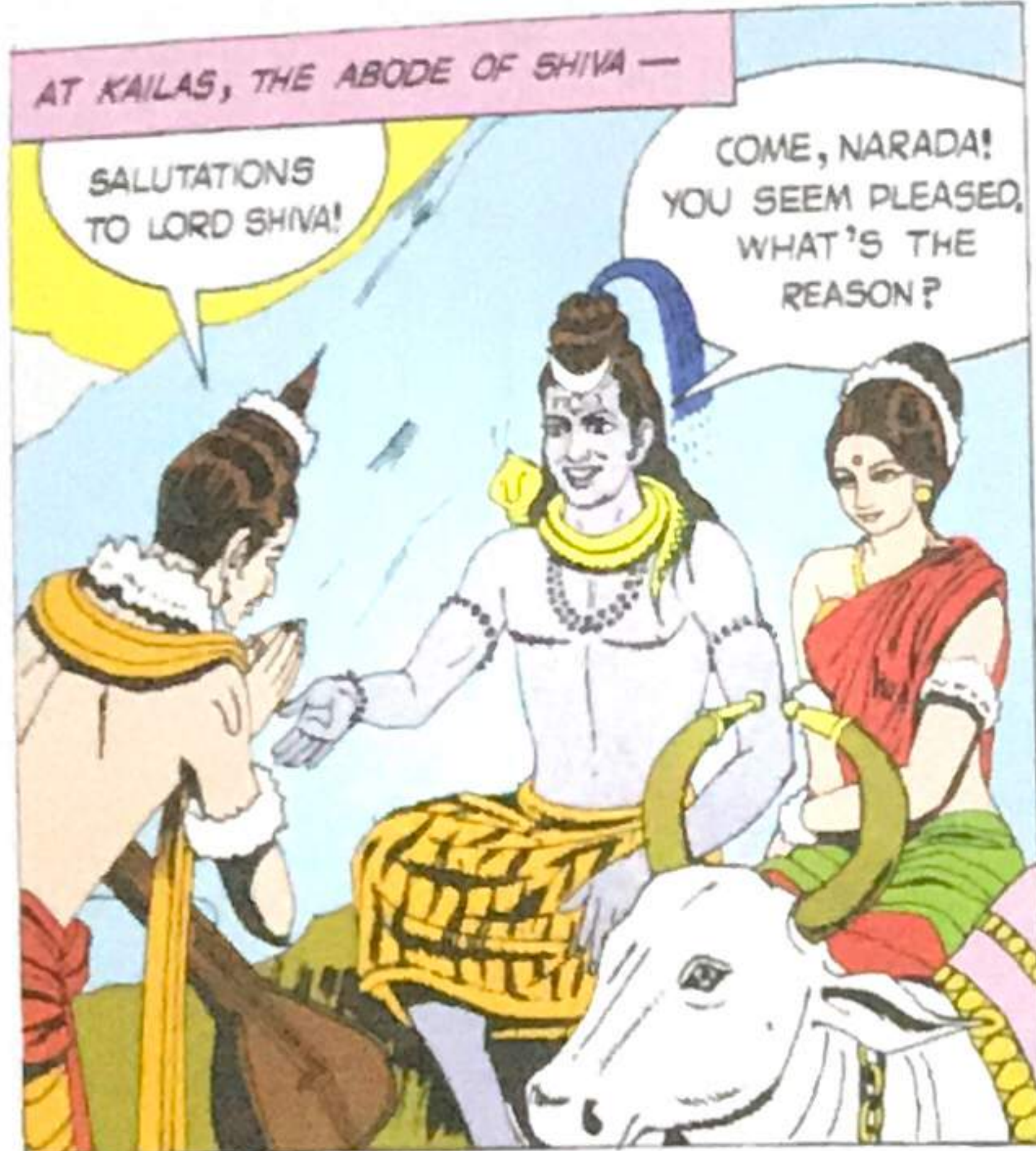


\* CELESTIAL DAMSEL

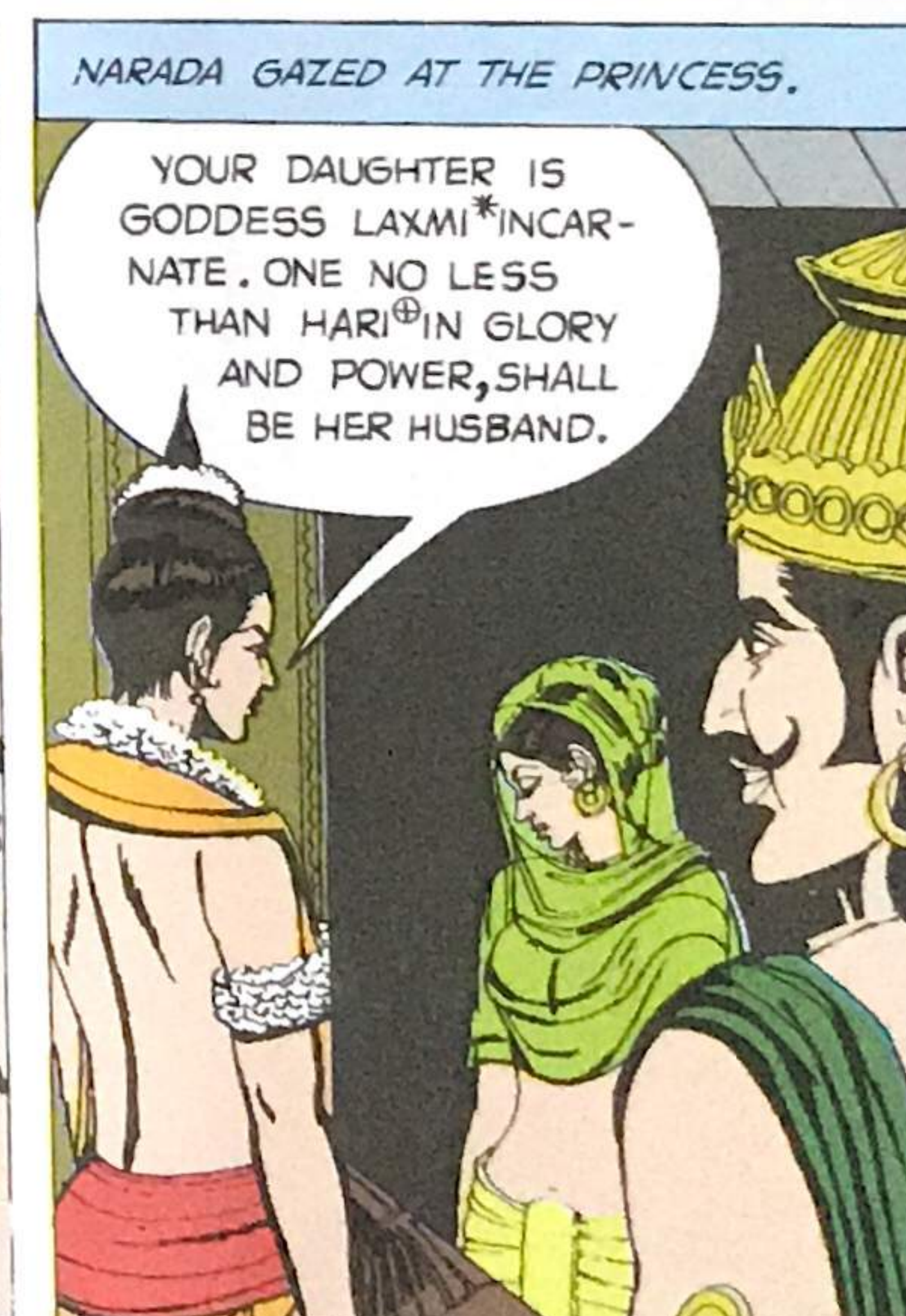
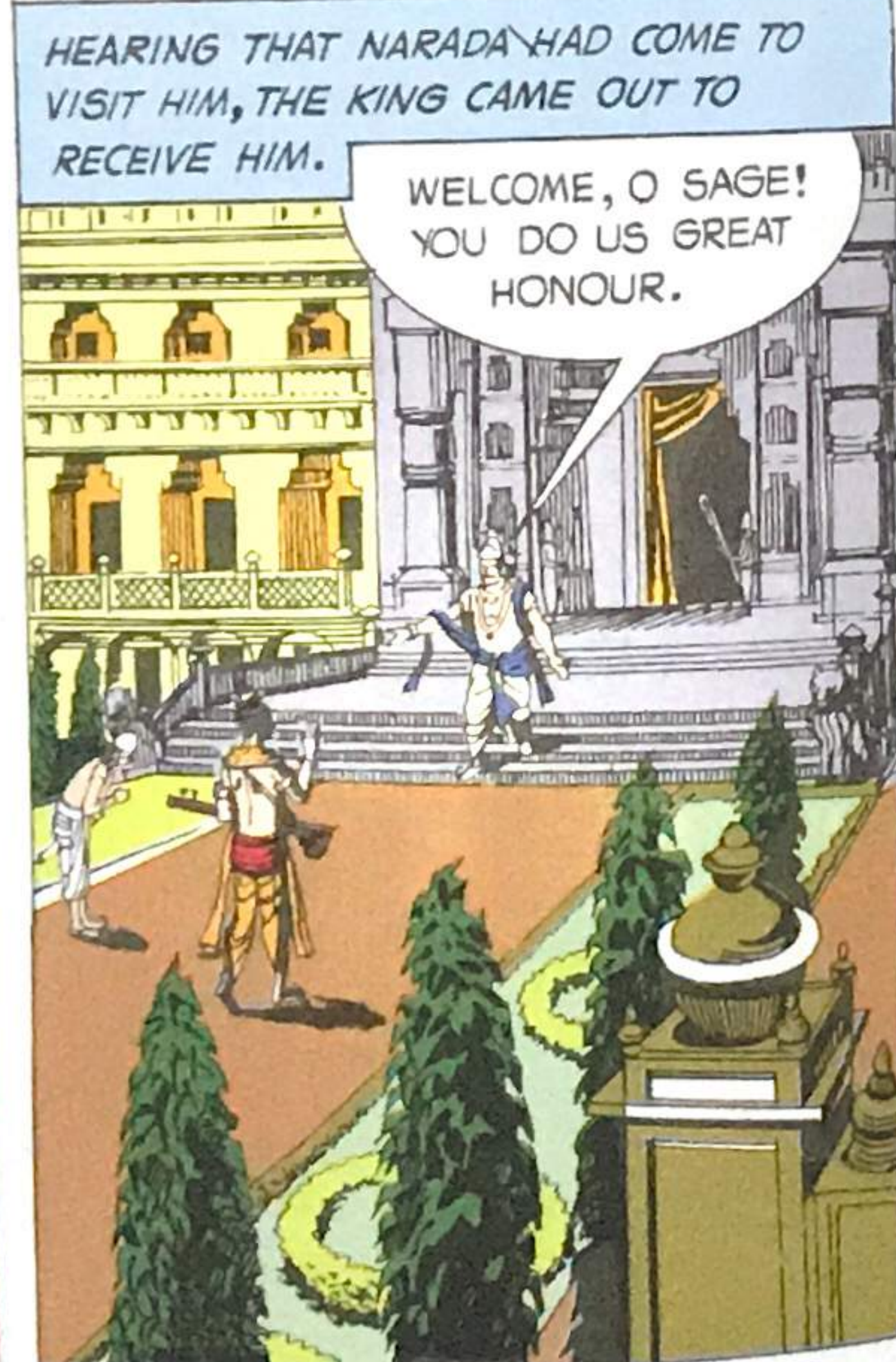
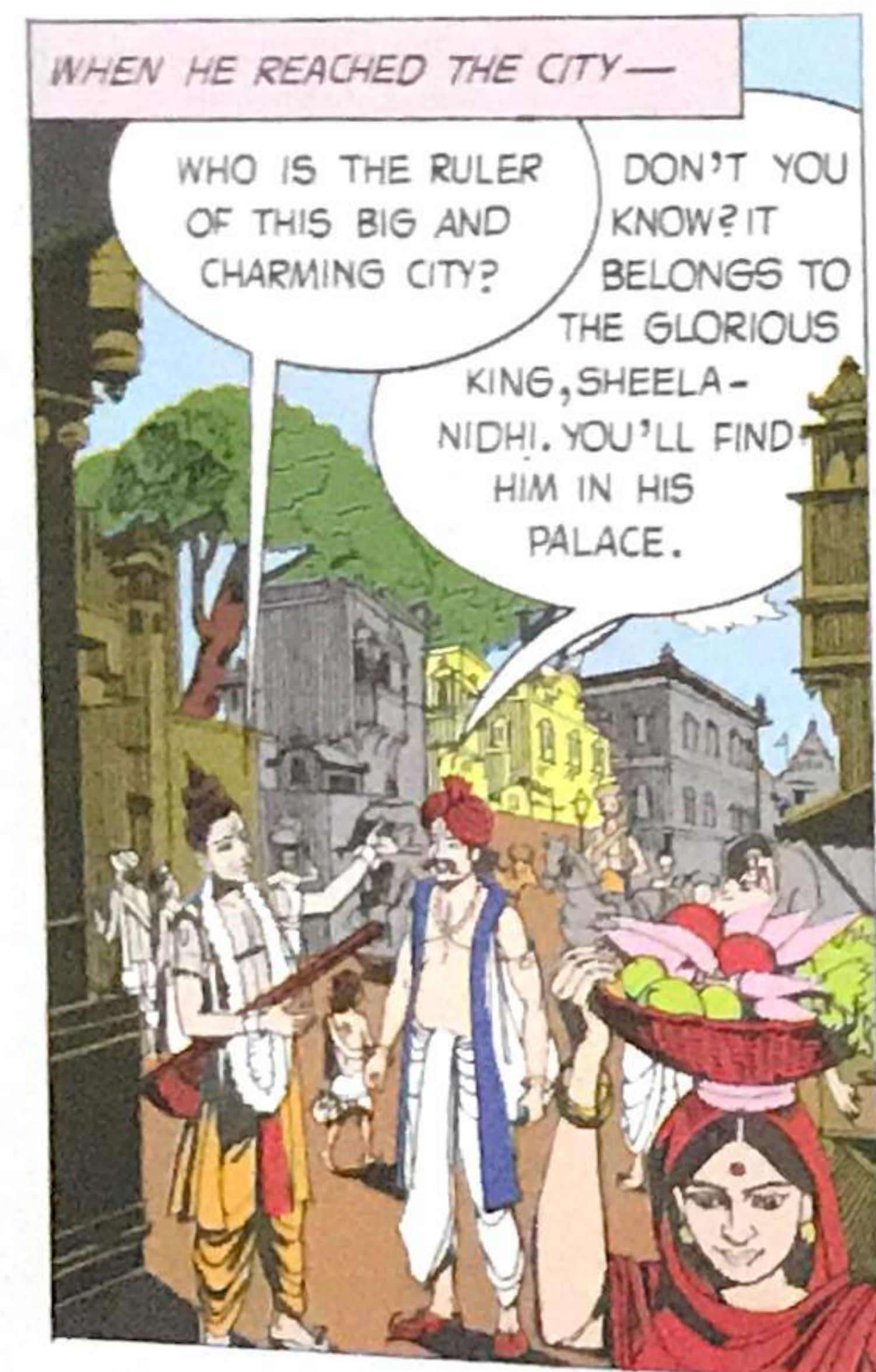
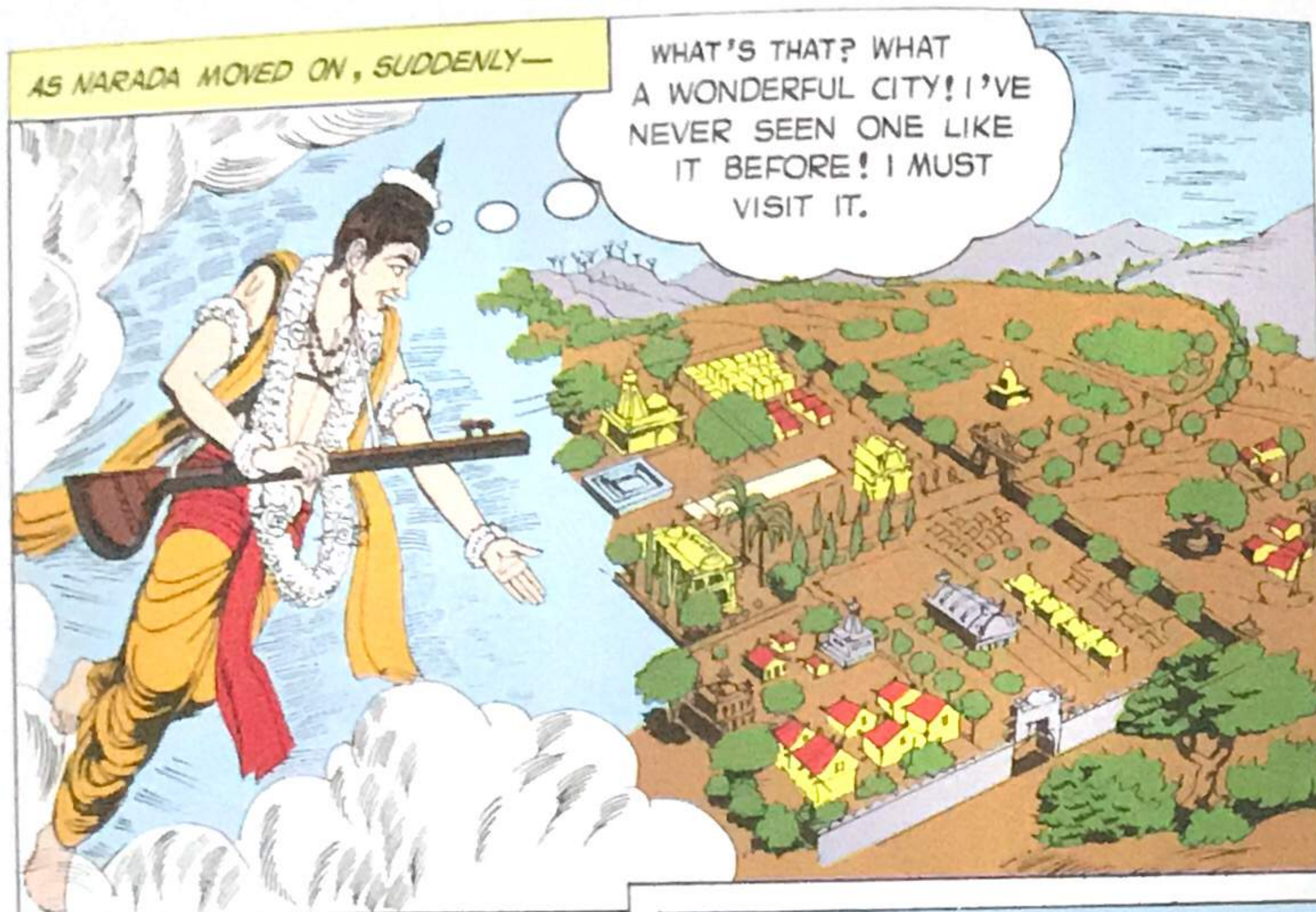






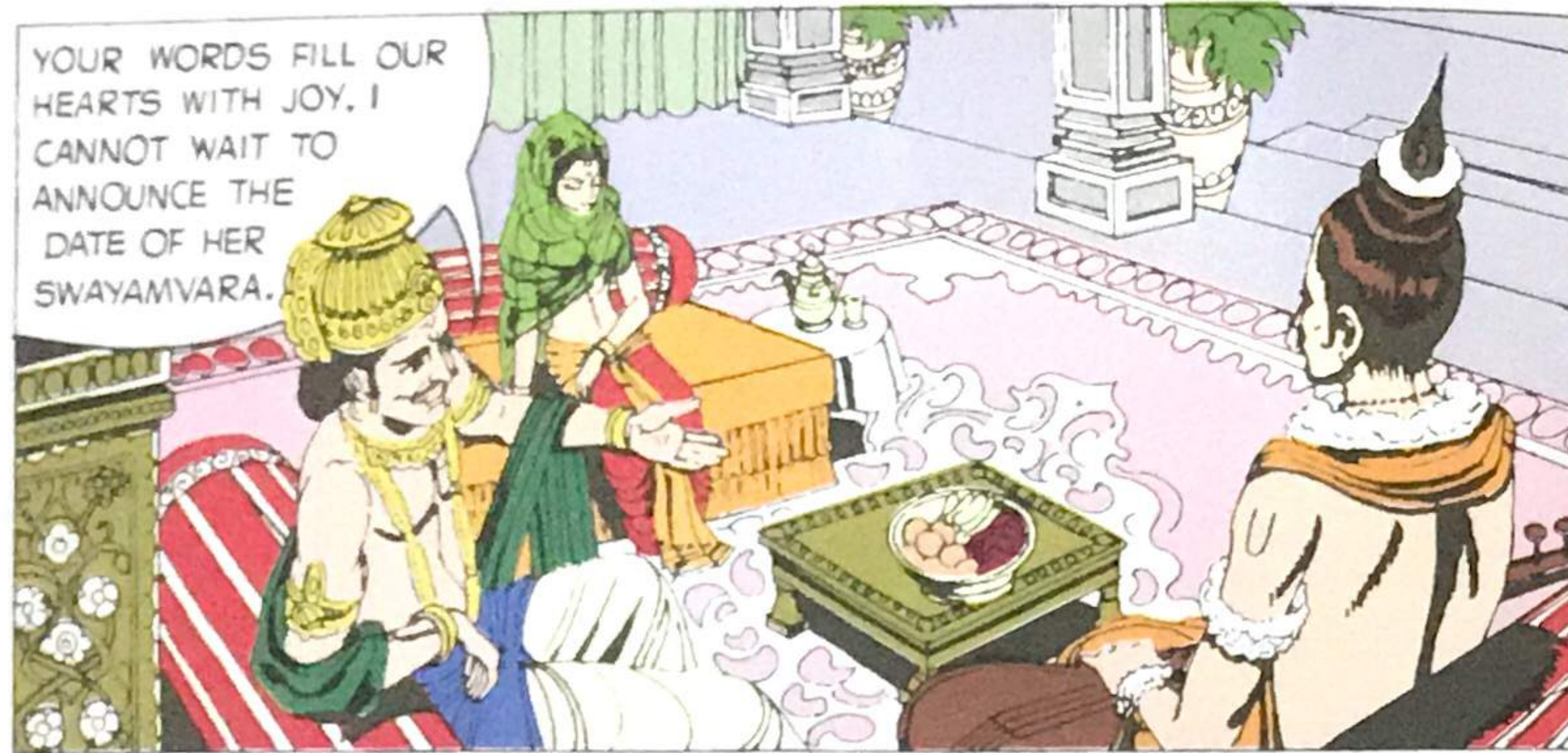






\* THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE, VISHNU'S CONSORT ⊕ VISHNU





YOUR WORDS FILL OUR HEARTS WITH JOY. I CANNOT WAIT TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE OF HER SWAYAMVARA.



IF I CAN GET THIS PRINCESS FOR A WIFE, THERE WILL BE NONE MORE FORTUNATE AND POWERFUL IN ALL THE UNIVERSE. BUT HOW SHALL I WIN HER?



NARADA PRAYED FERVENTLY TO LORD VISHNU.



AT LAST, WHEN LORD VISHNU APPEARED BEFORE HIM —

LORD, LET MY FACE RESEMBLE HARI'S.\*

YOU SHALL CERTAINLY HAVE THE FACE OF HARI.

BUT NOT THE HARI YOU'RE THINKING OF.

\* ANOTHER NAME FOR VISHNU

WHEN NARADA MADE HIS REQUEST HE HAD FORGOTTEN THAT THE WORD HARI ALSO MEANT A MONKEY! AND HE COULD NOT SEE HIS OWN FACE.



HE WENT TO THE SWAYAMVARA HALL FULL OF CONFIDENCE, SURE OF HIS VICTORY.



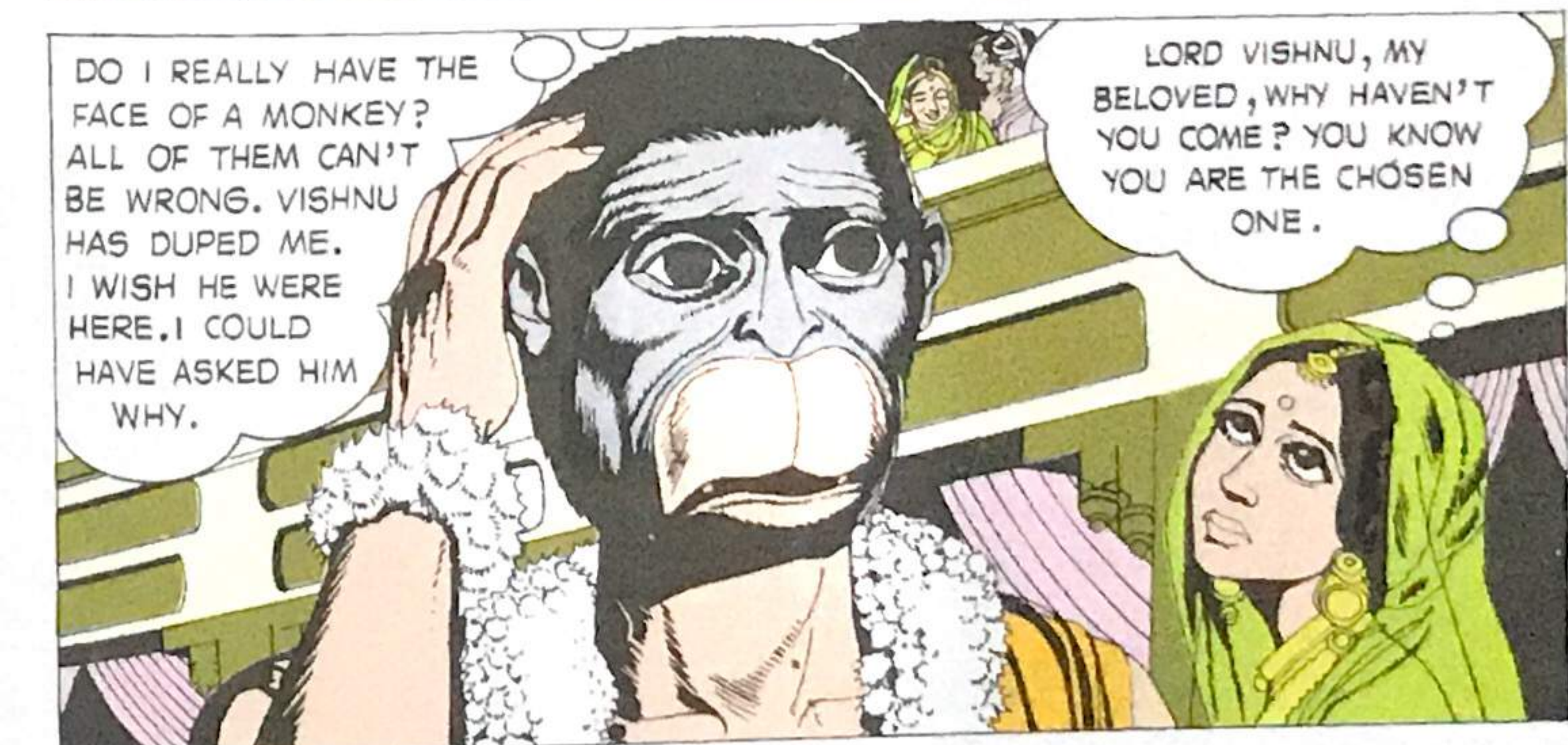
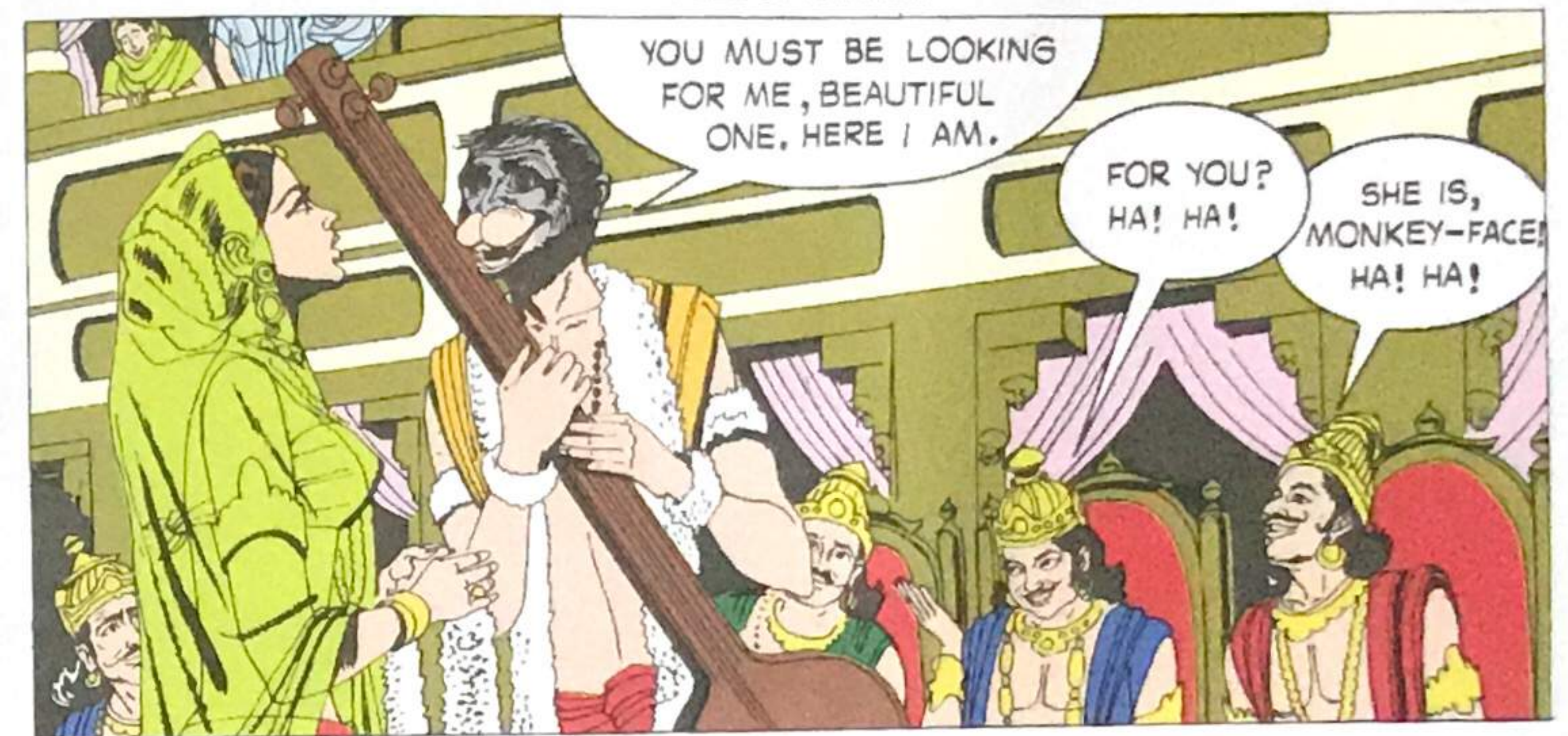
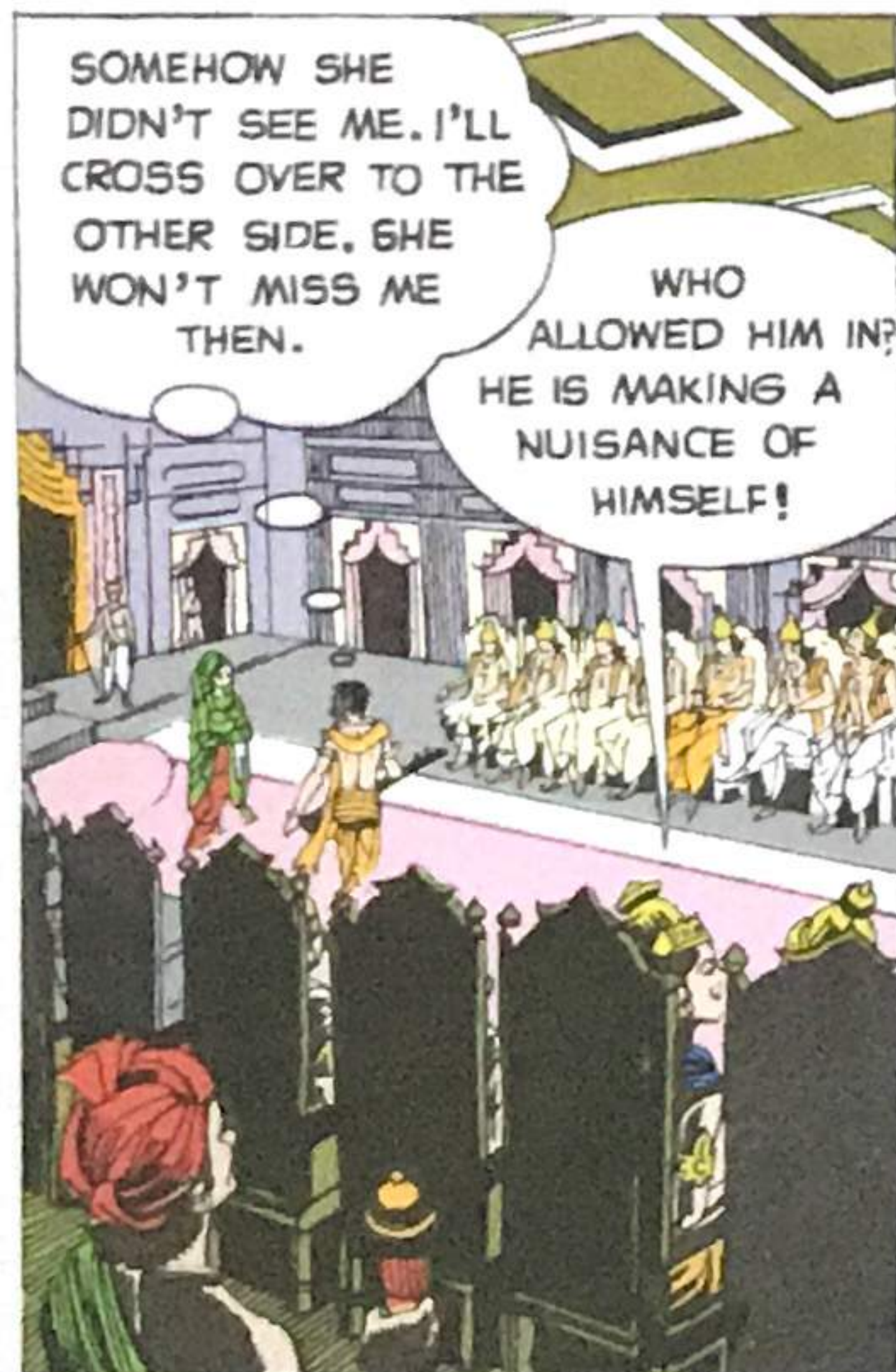
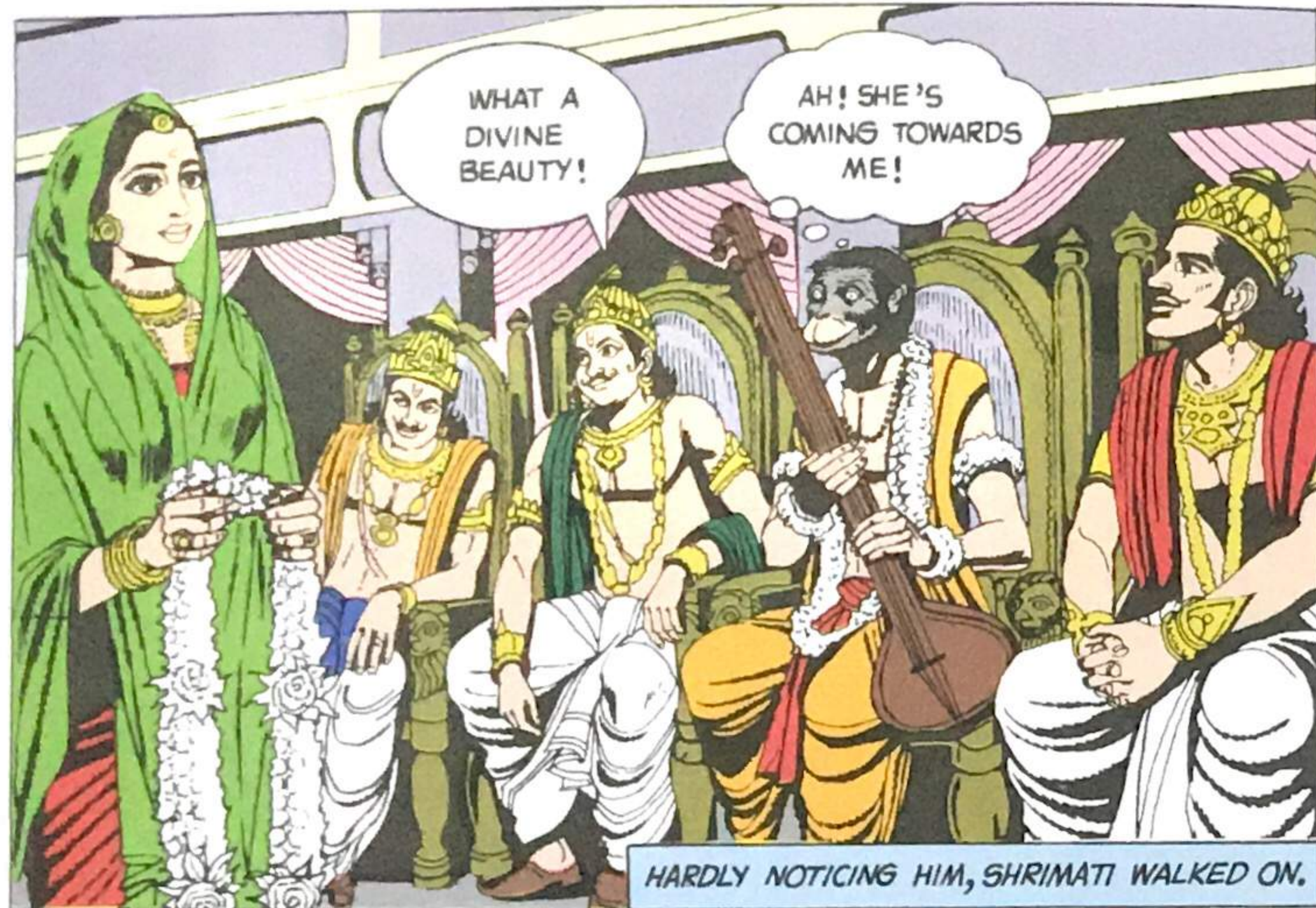
WHO COULD THAT STRANGE CREATURE BE? A MAN WITH A MONKEY'S FACE! HA! HA!

AND WHAT DOES HE WANT HERE? THE HEART OF SHRIMATI, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS IN THE WORLD?

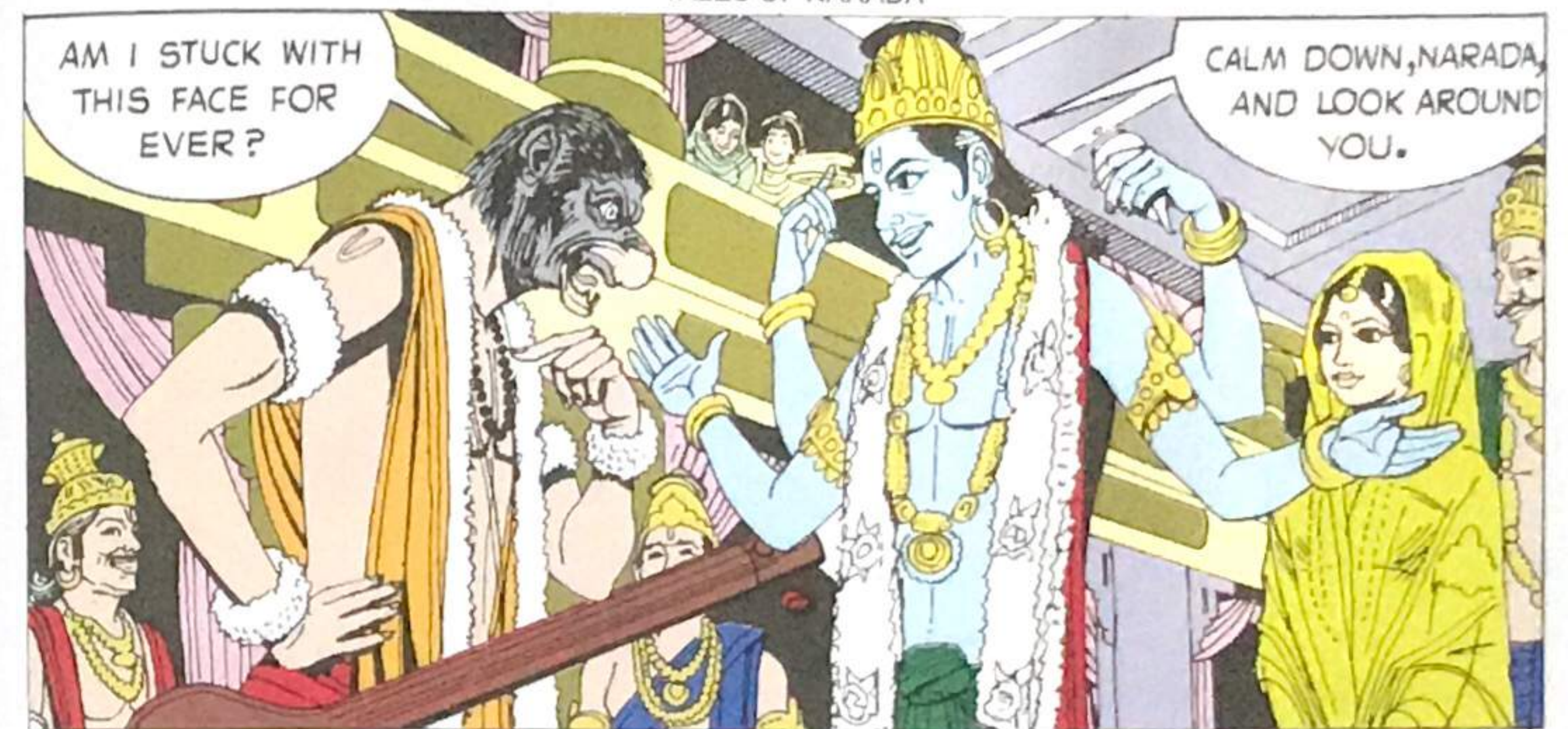
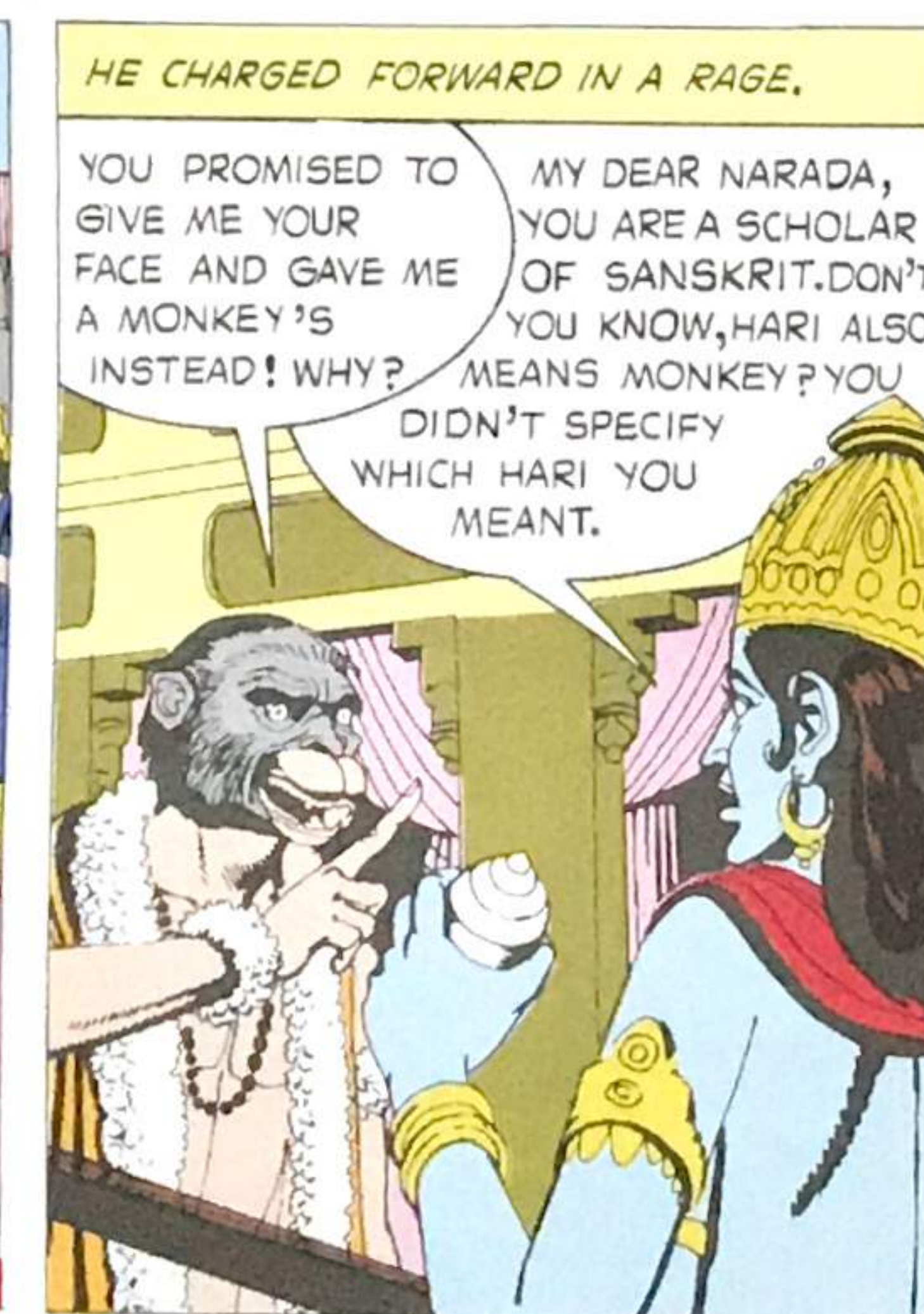
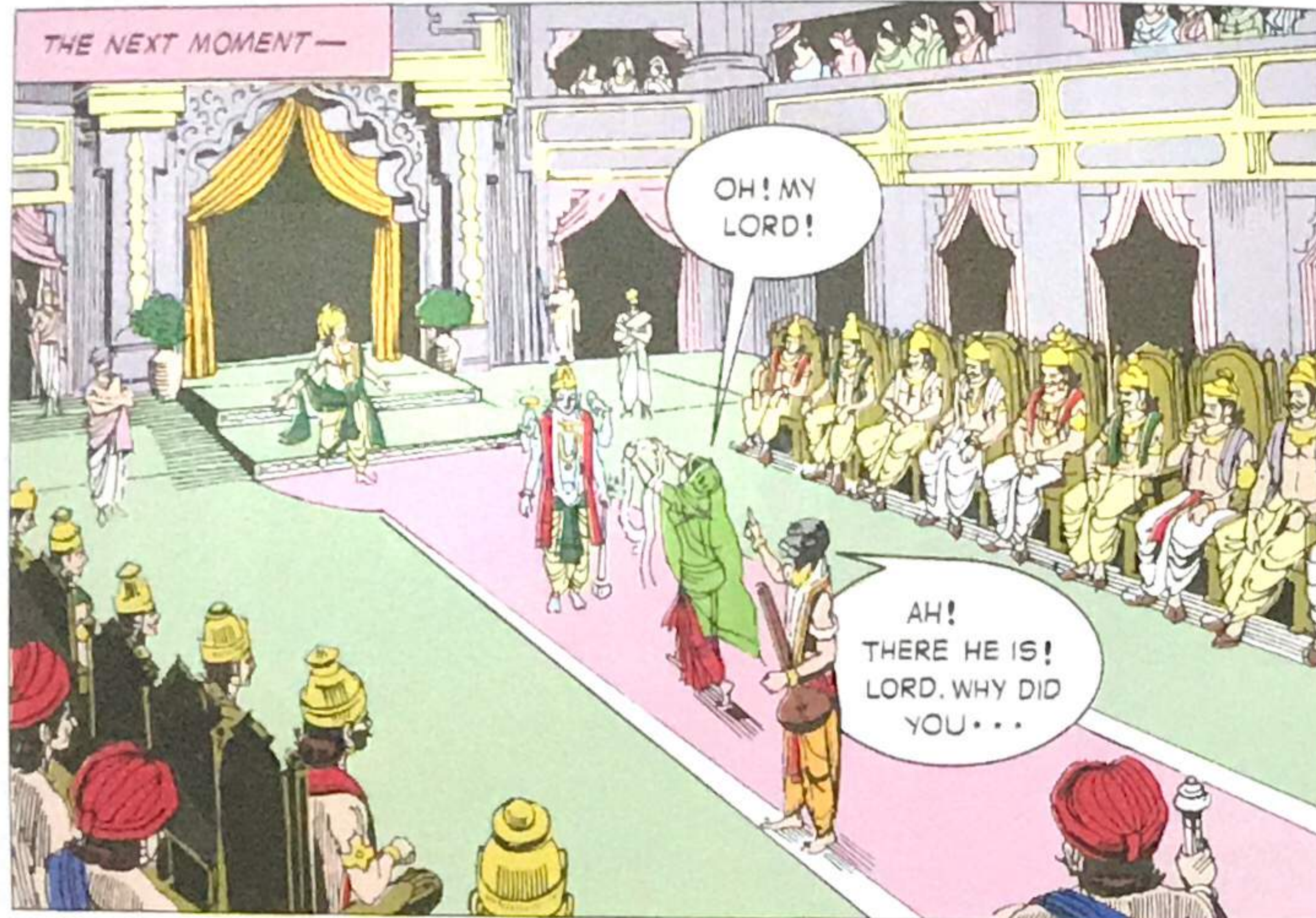


I HAVE THE HONOUR OF WELCOMING YOU, OUR ROYAL GUESTS, TO THE SWAYAMVARA OF MY DAUGHTER SHRIMATI. SHE SHALL CHOOSE ONE AMONG YOU AS HER HUSBAND. COME MY DAUGHTER, MAKE YOUR CHOICE!



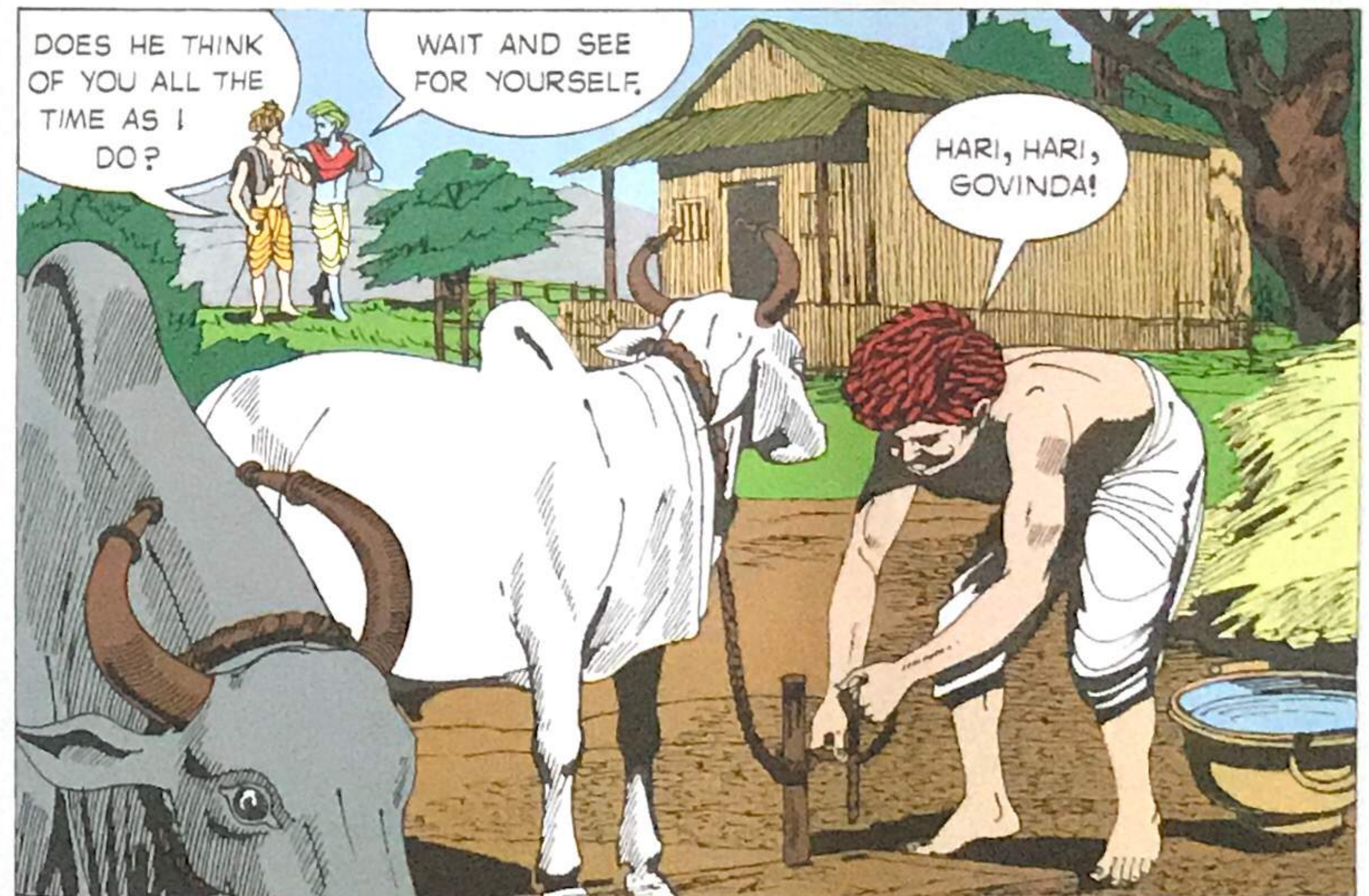
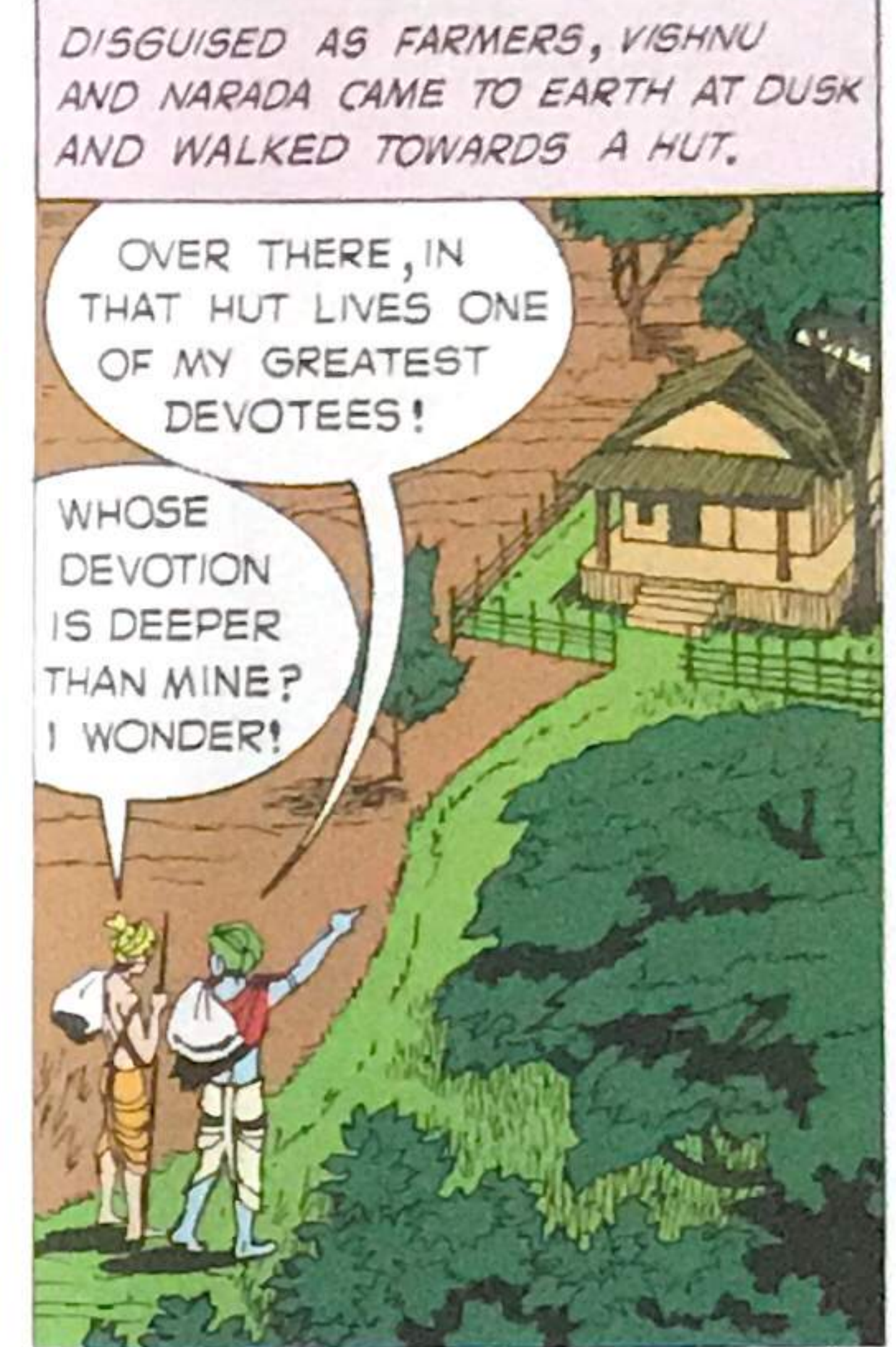
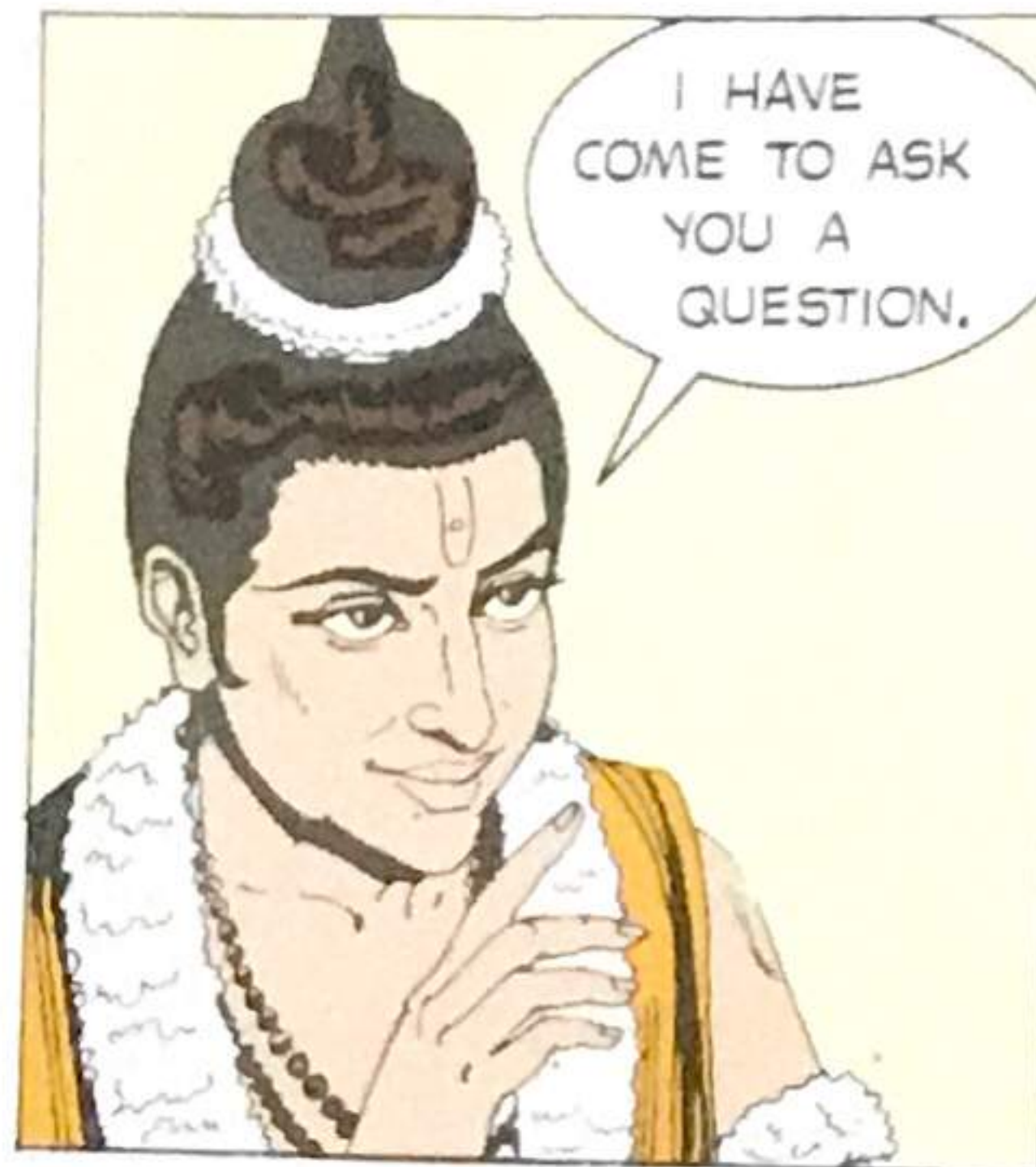
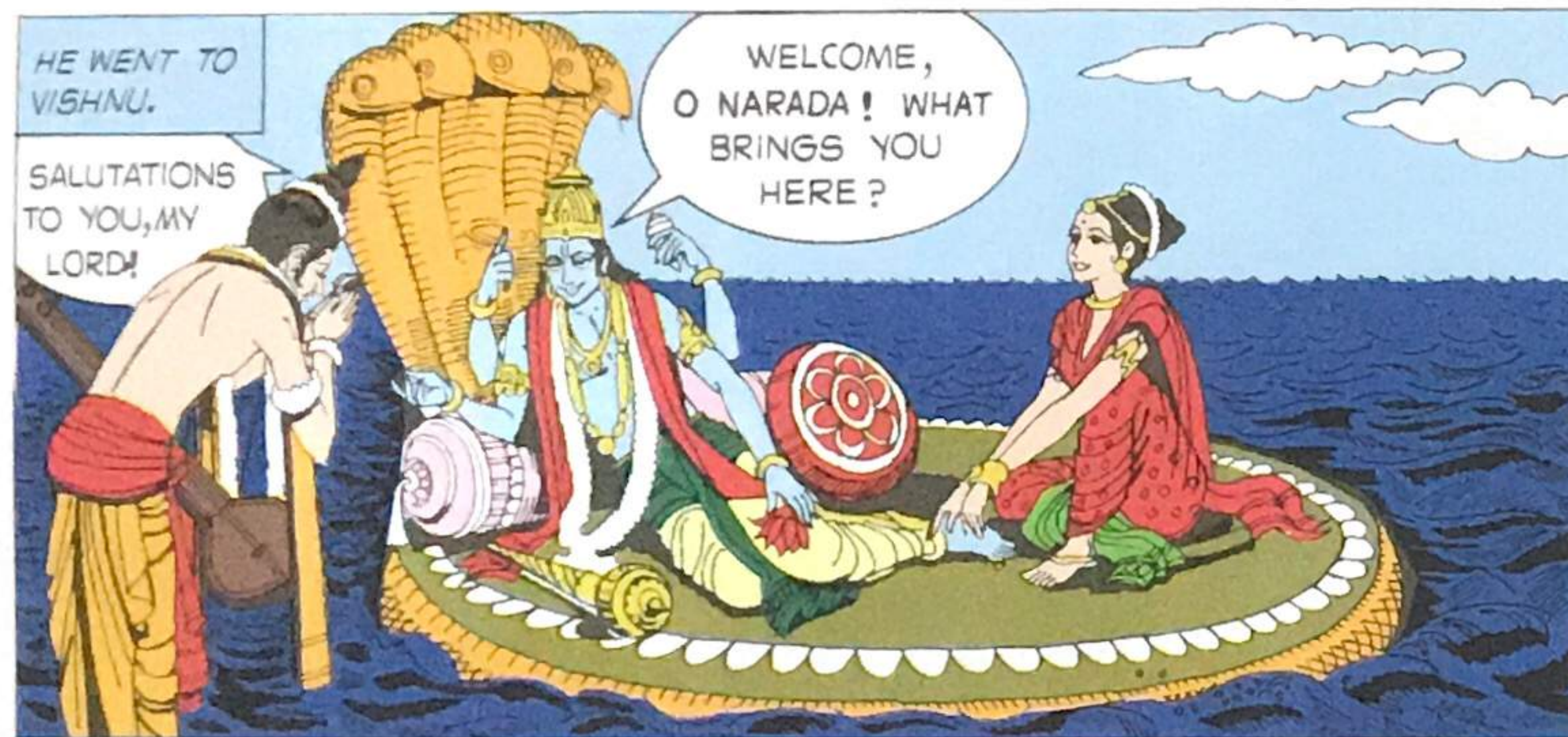
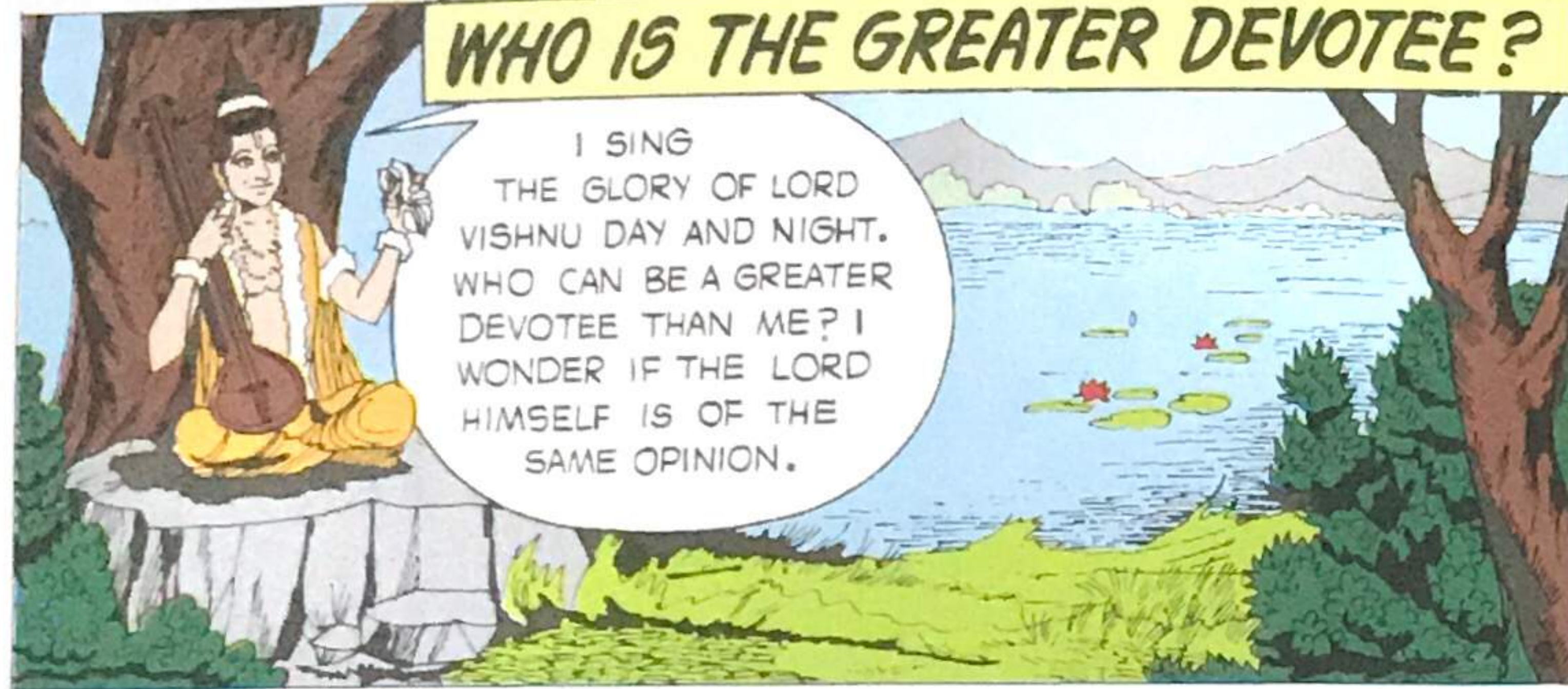




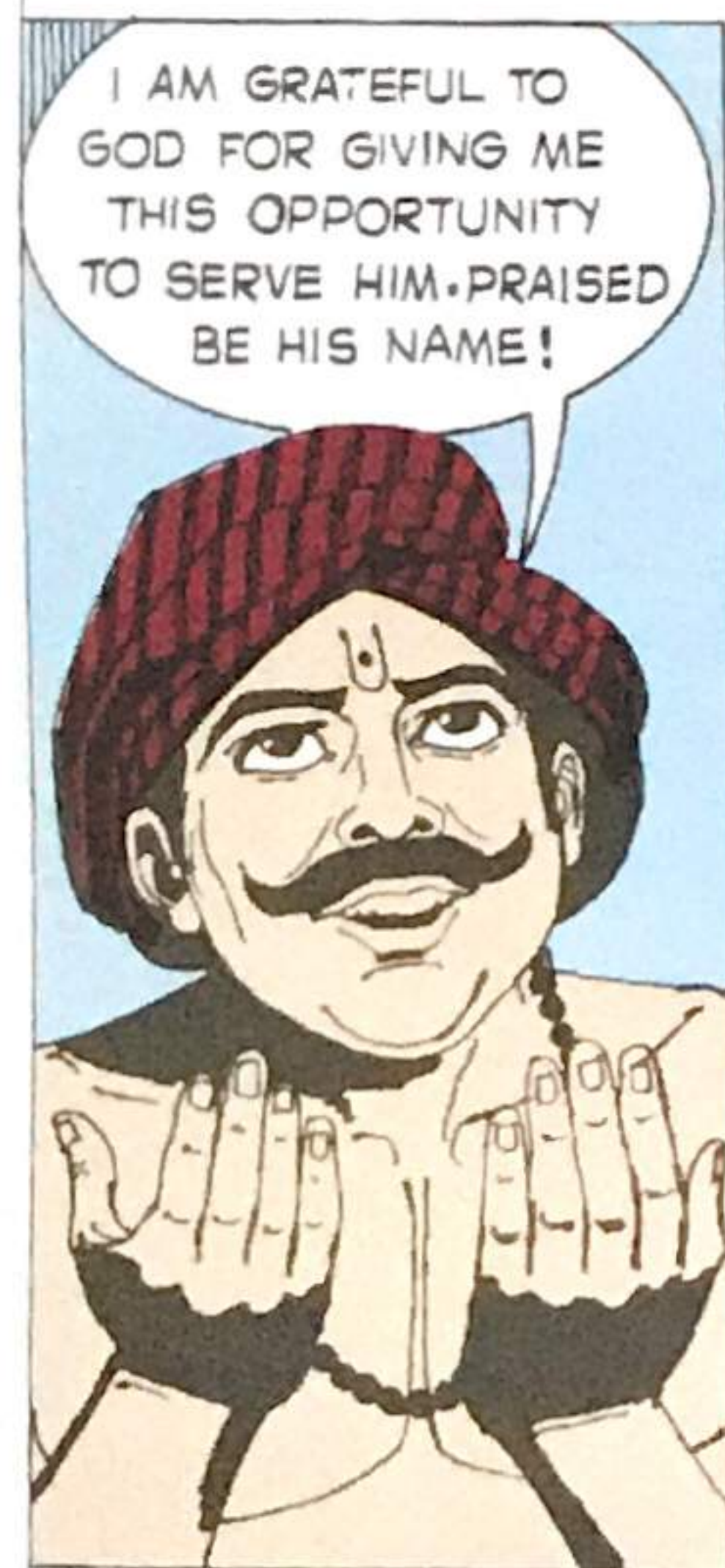
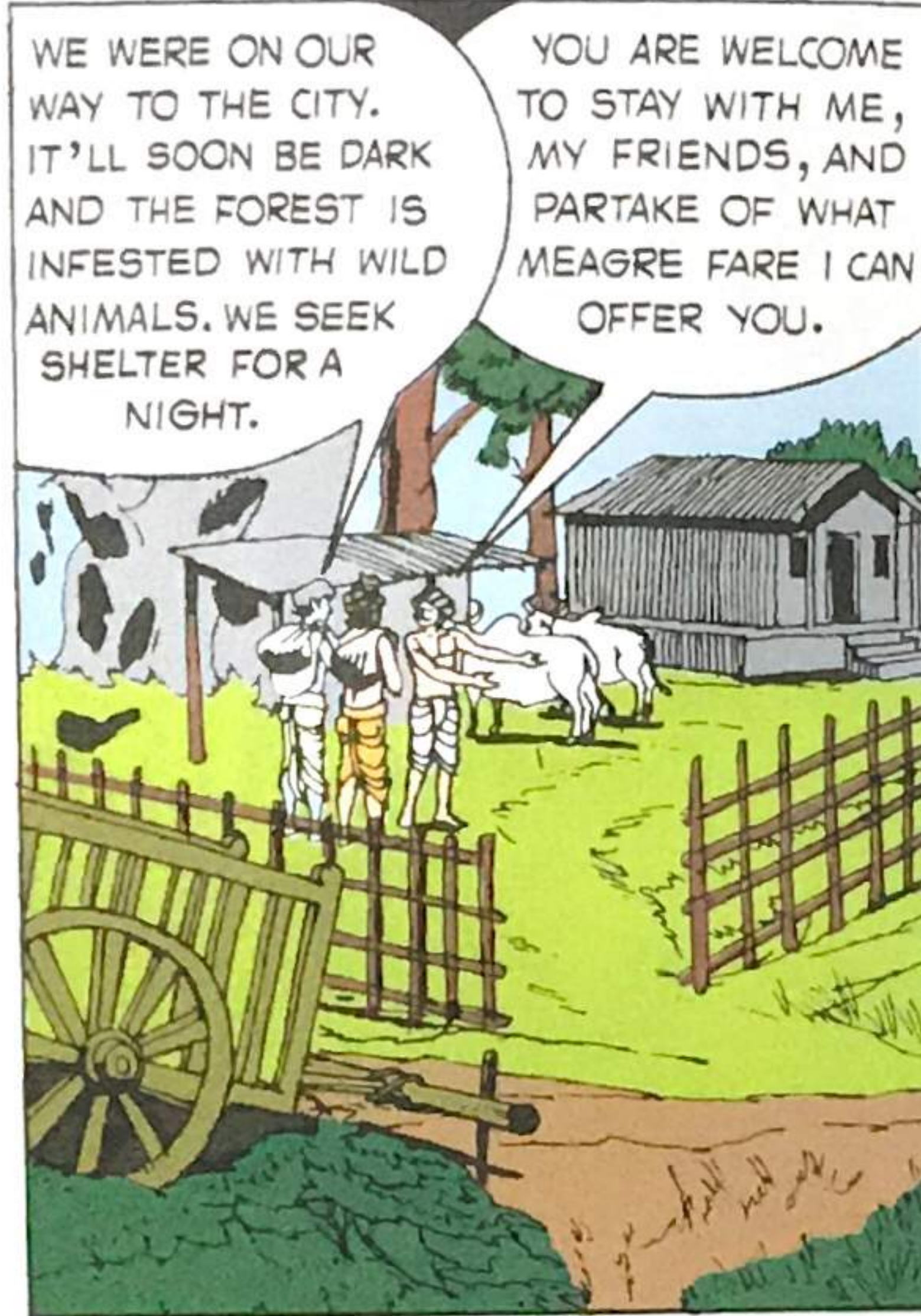




# WHO IS THE GREATER DEVOTEE?







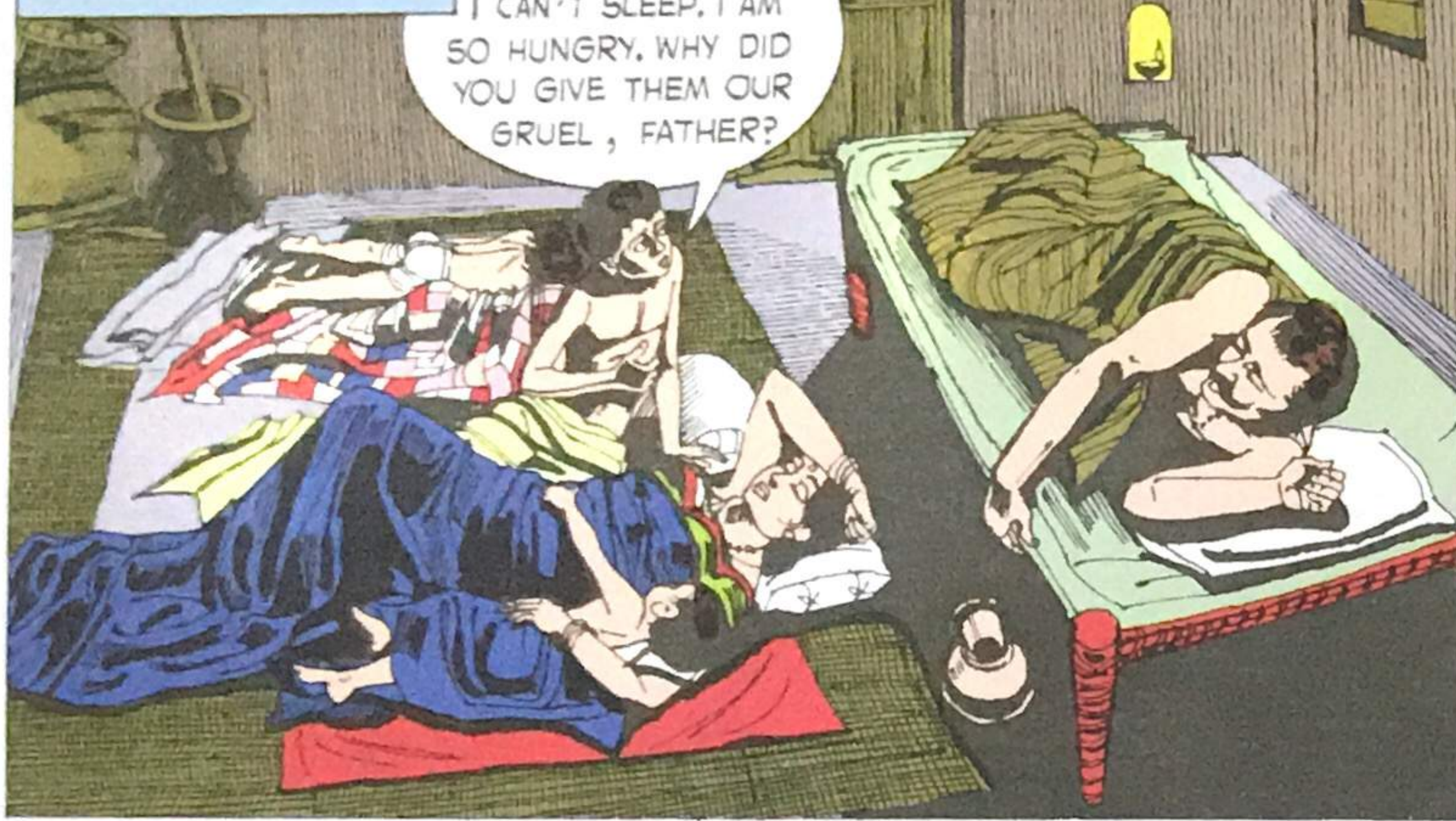
\* UNLEAVENED BREAD





VISHNU AND NARADA FINISHED THAT TOO. THE FARMER AND HIS FAMILY HAD TO GO TO BED HUNGRY.

I CAN'T SLEEP. I AM SO HUNGRY. WHY DID YOU GIVE THEM OUR GRUEL, FATHER?



BECAUSE BY FEEDING A GUEST I AM FEEDING VISHNU HIMSELF.



SEE, NARADA, THE FARMER AND HIS FAMILY HAVE EATEN NOTHING THIS EVENING; AND YET HE SINGS MY GLORY.

THAT'S NOTHING! I HAVE REMAINED WITHOUT FOOD FOR DAYS AND STILL REMEMBERED YOU!

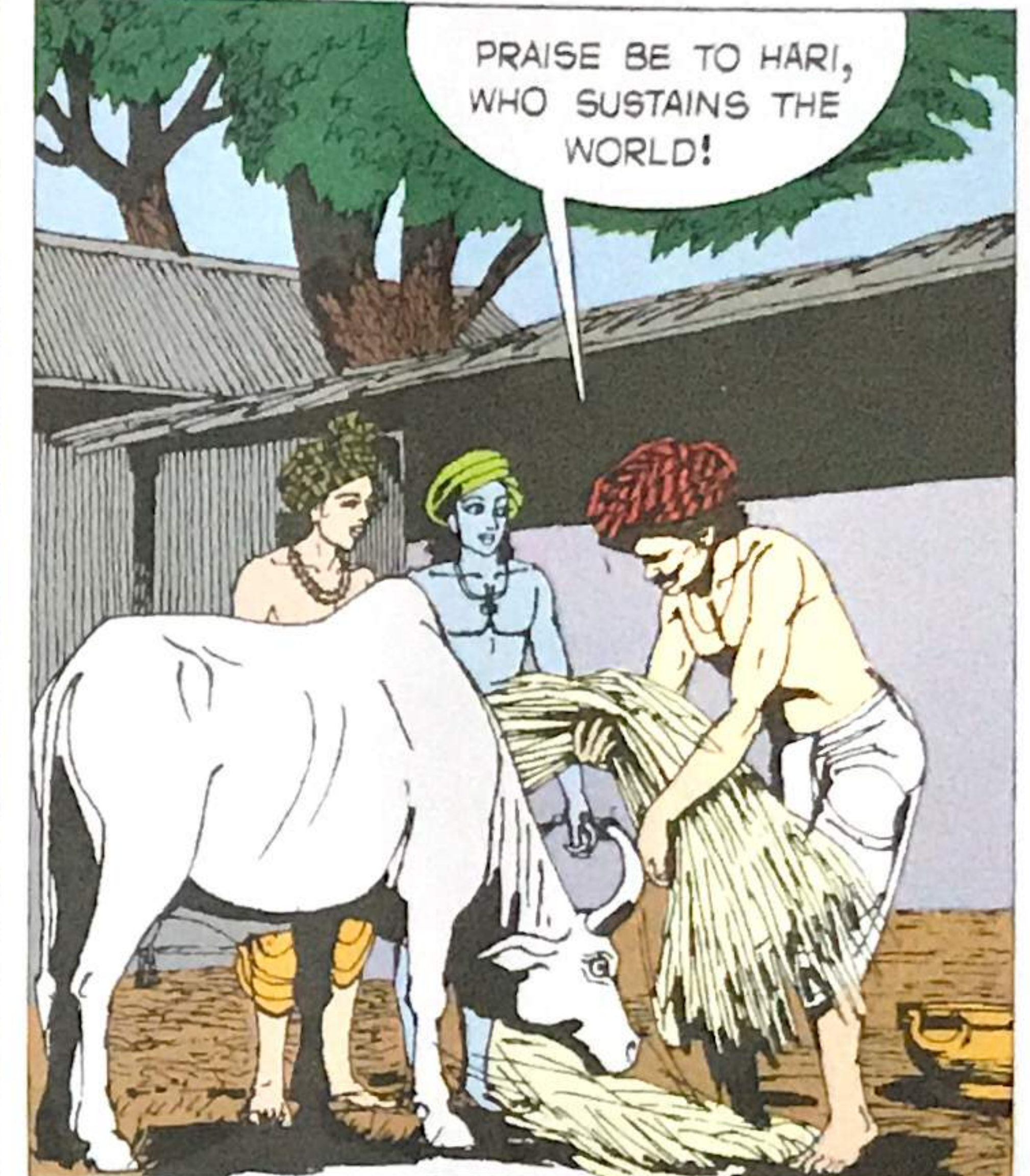


THE NEXT MORNING —

GOVINDA, HARI, HARI! LORD, MAY I ALWAYS HAVE FAITH IN YOU. I SEEK NOTHING ELSE.



PRAISE BE TO HARI, WHO SUSTAINS THE WORLD!

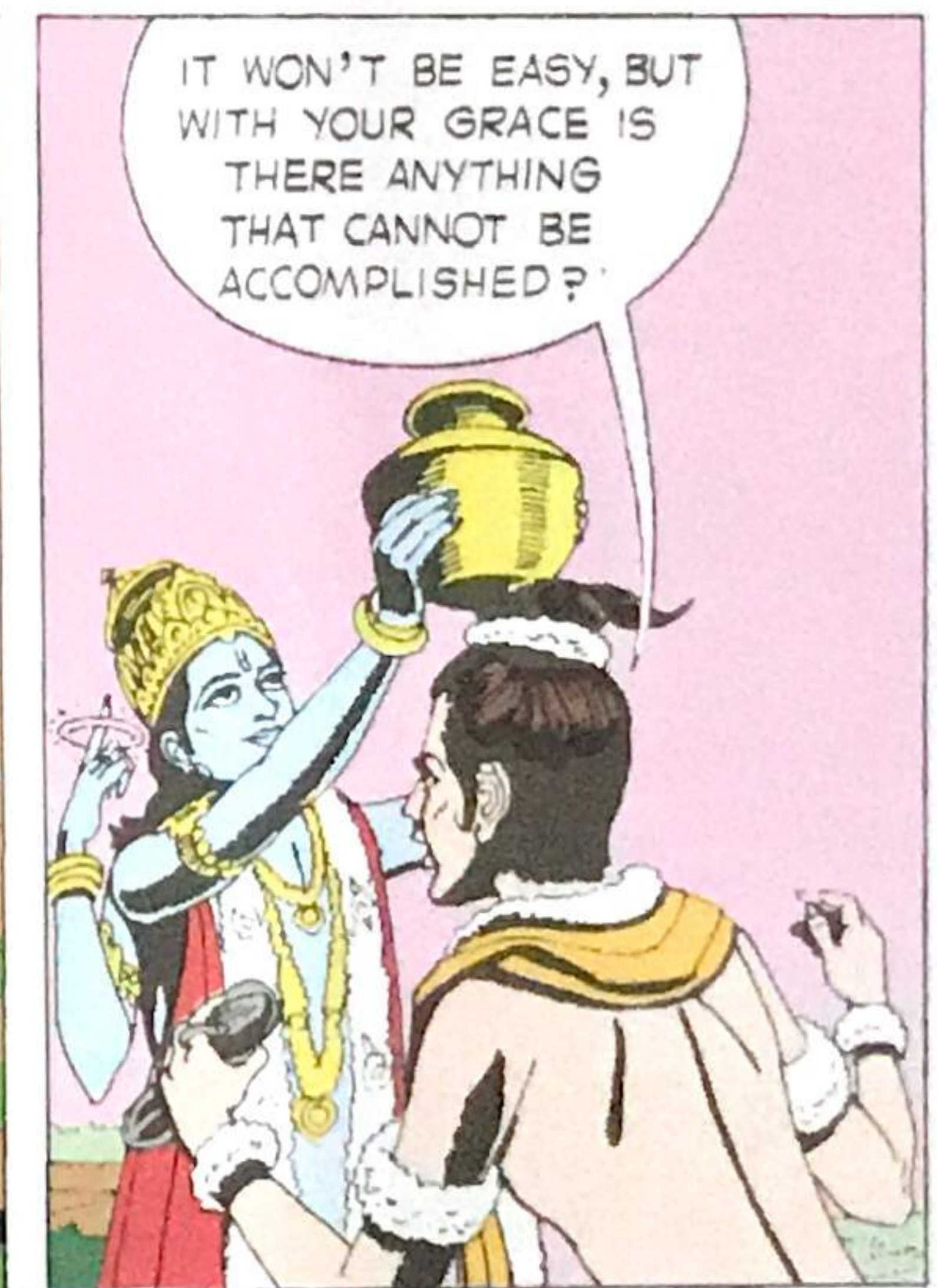
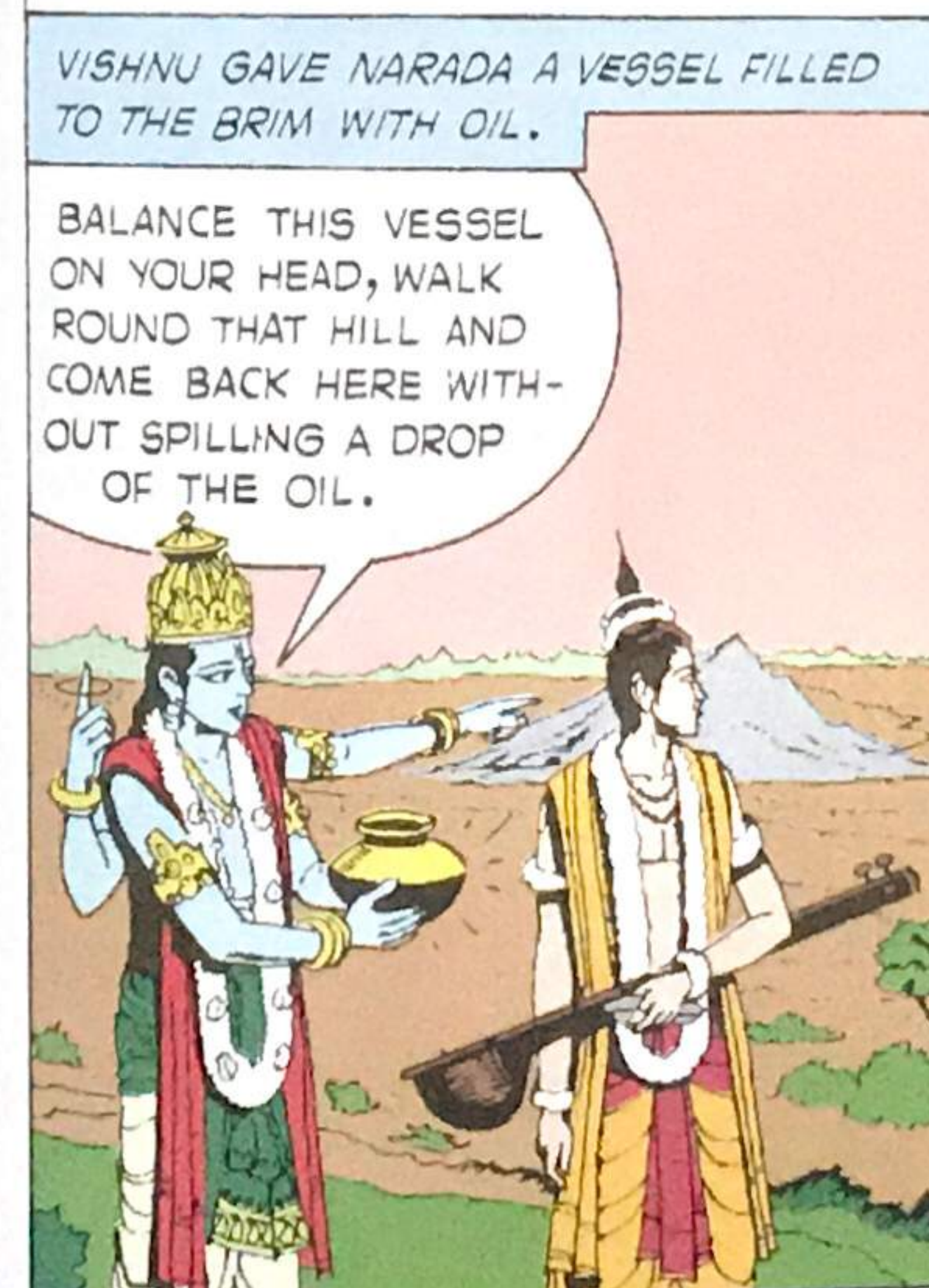
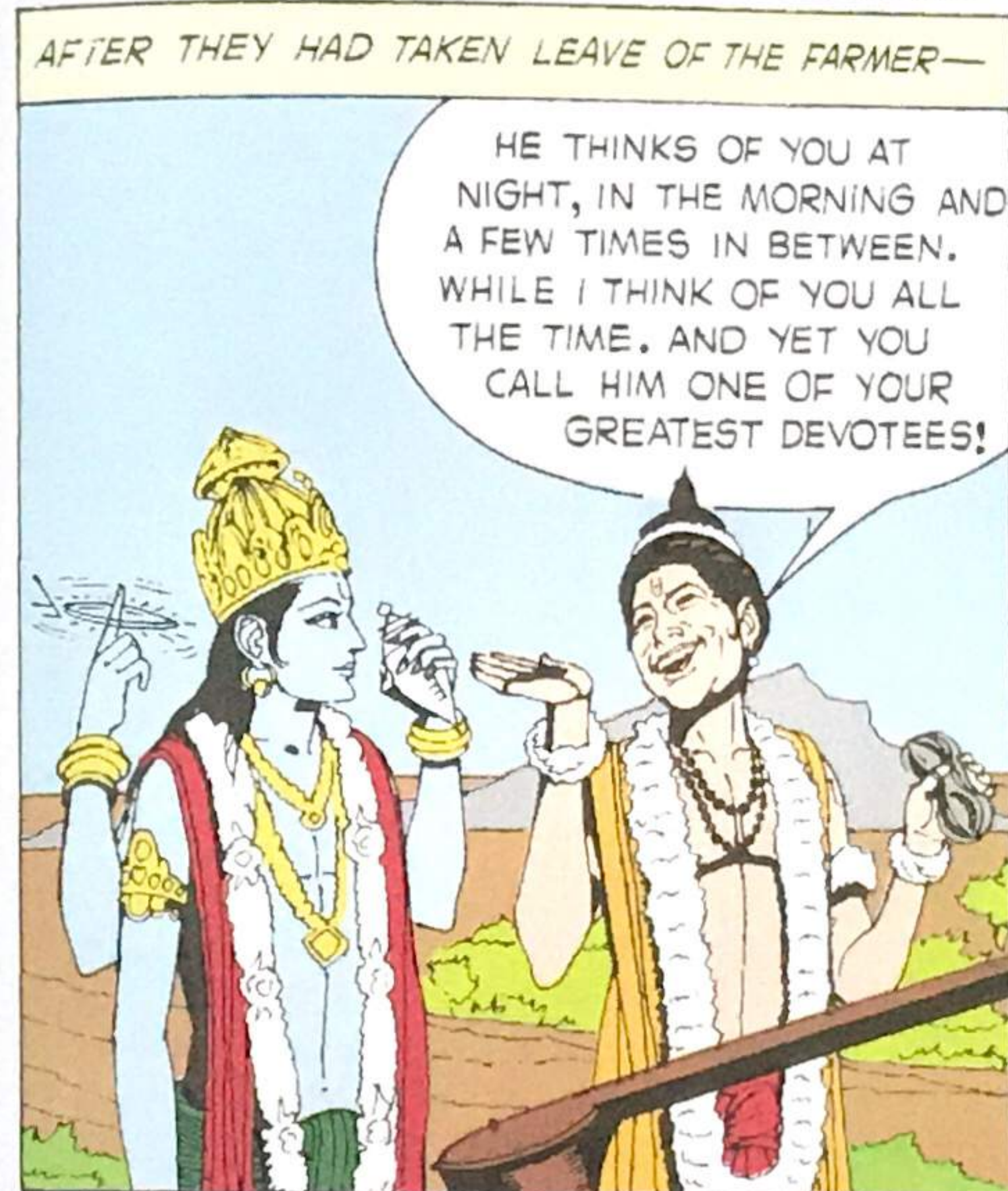
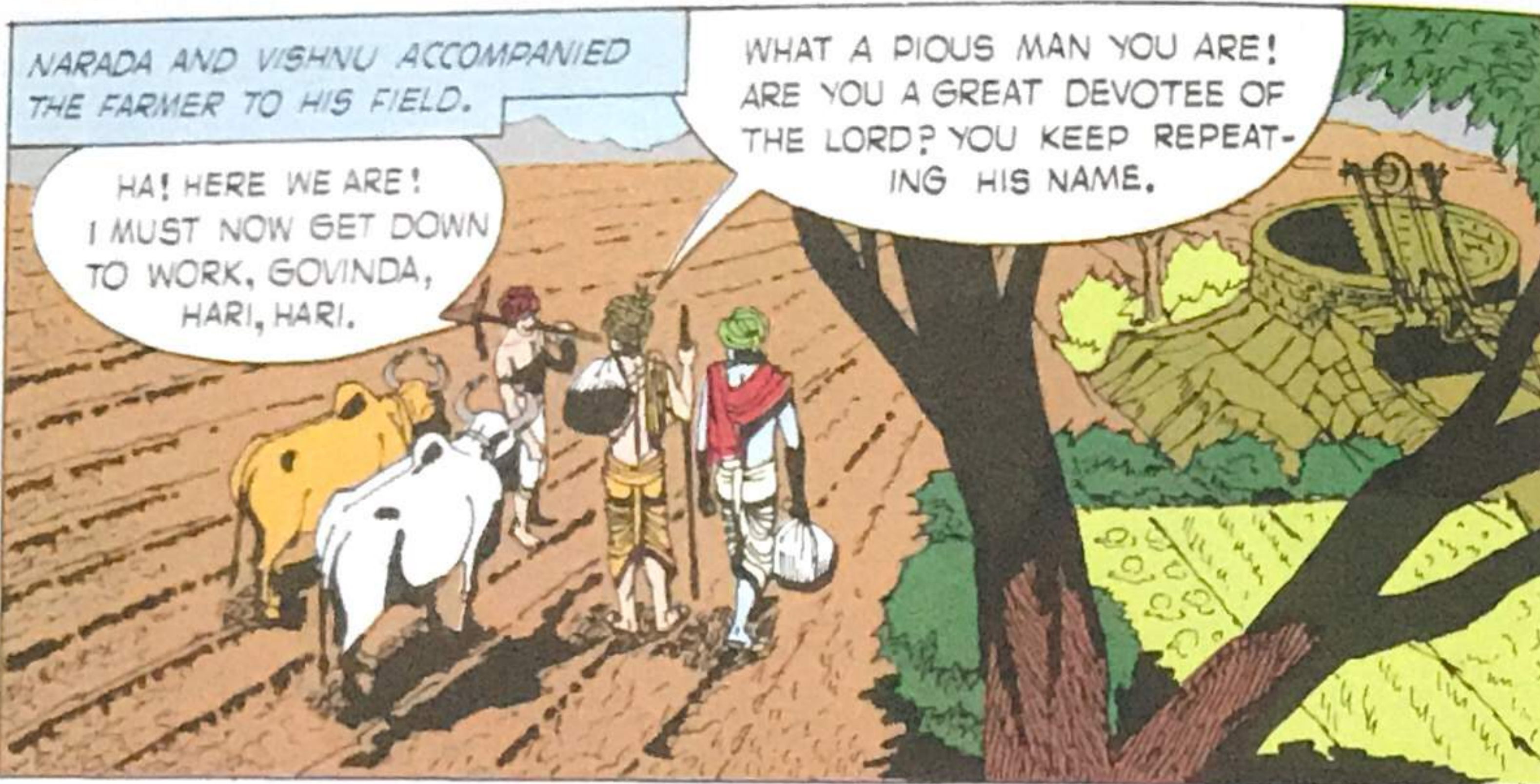


LORD BE PRAISED! FRIENDS, I HOPE YOU SLEPT WELL LAST NIGHT. YOU MAY STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU PLEASE. I MUST NOW BE OFF TO MY FIELDS.

WE'LL COME WITH YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

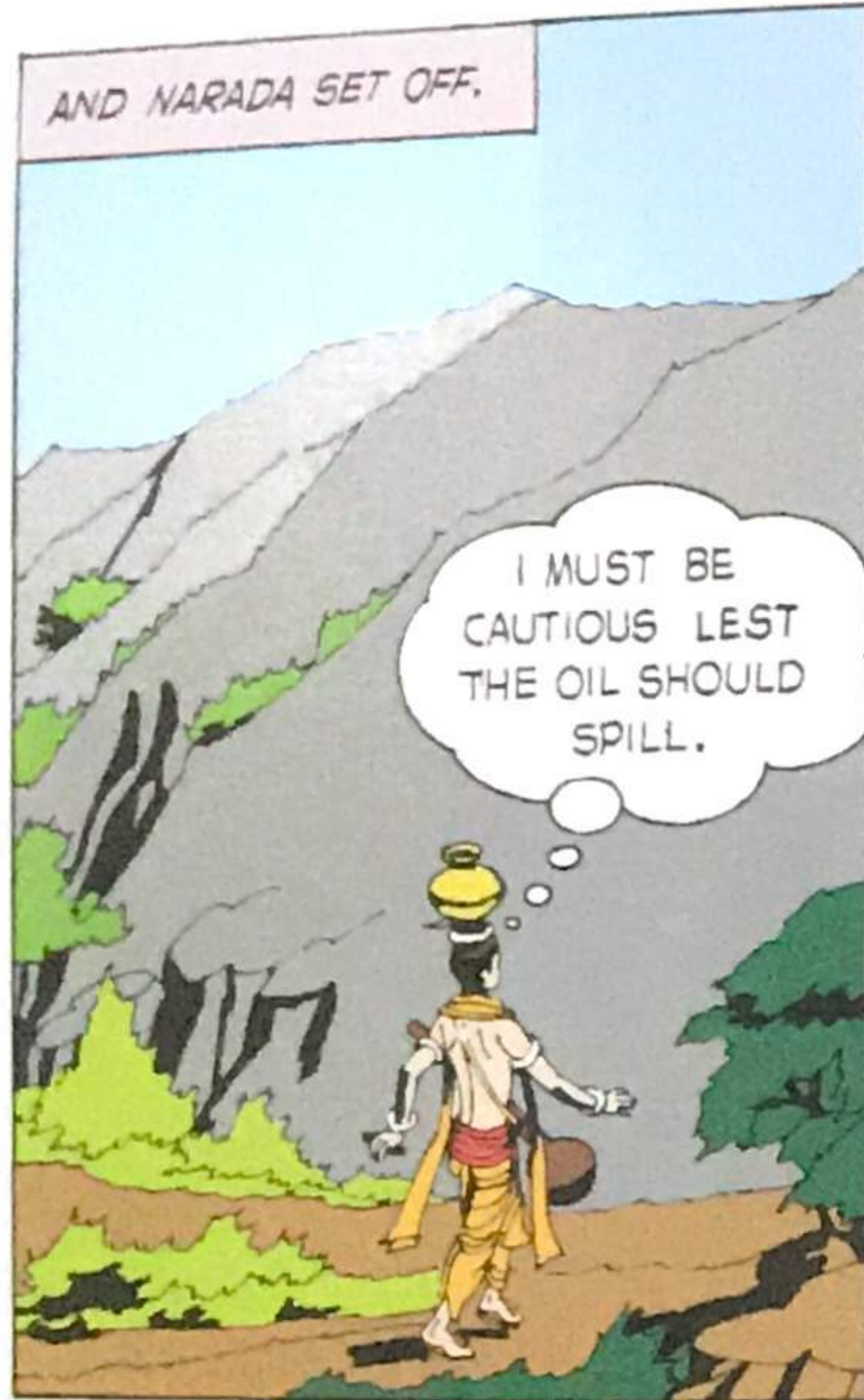




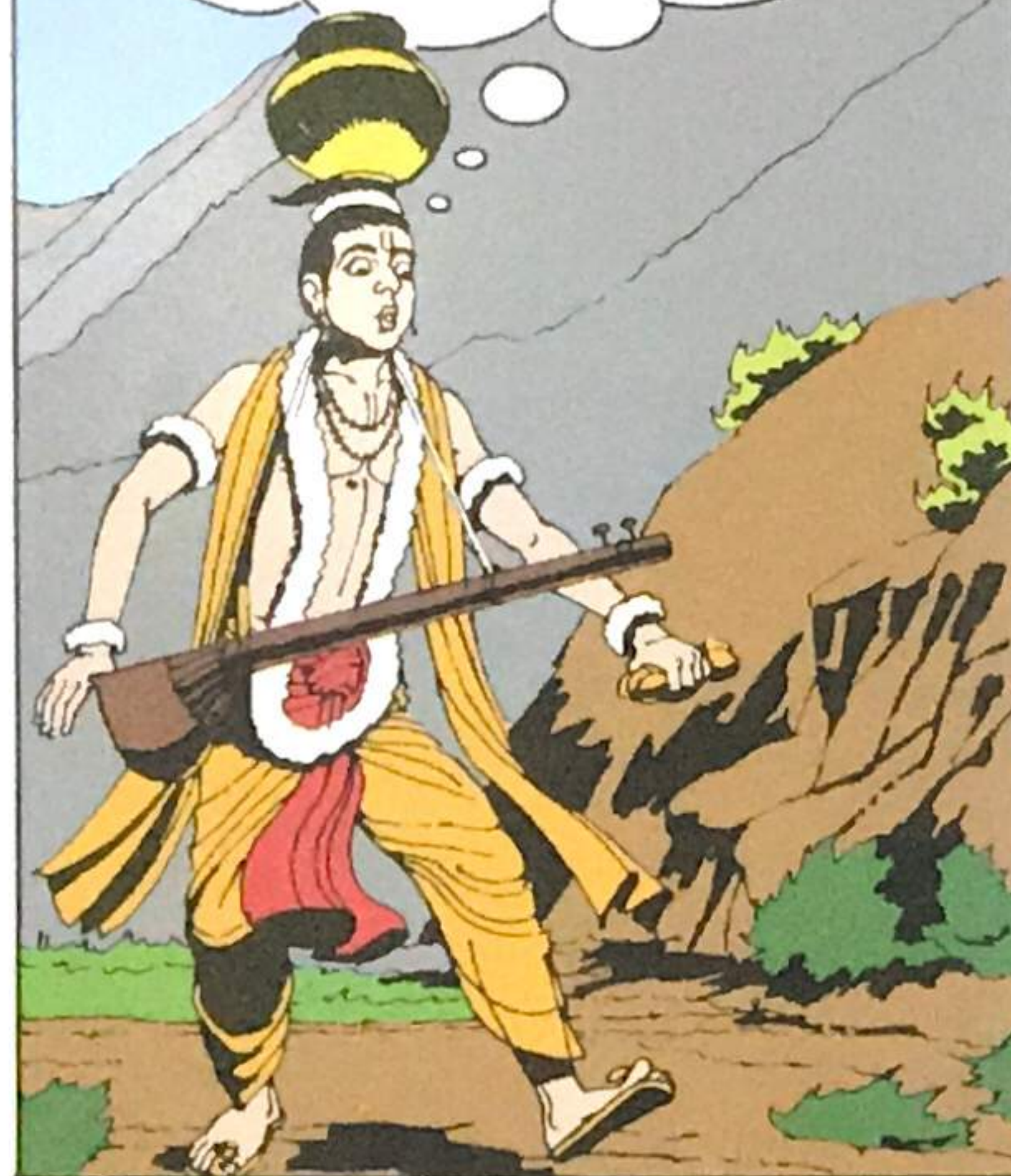




AND NARADA SET OFF.



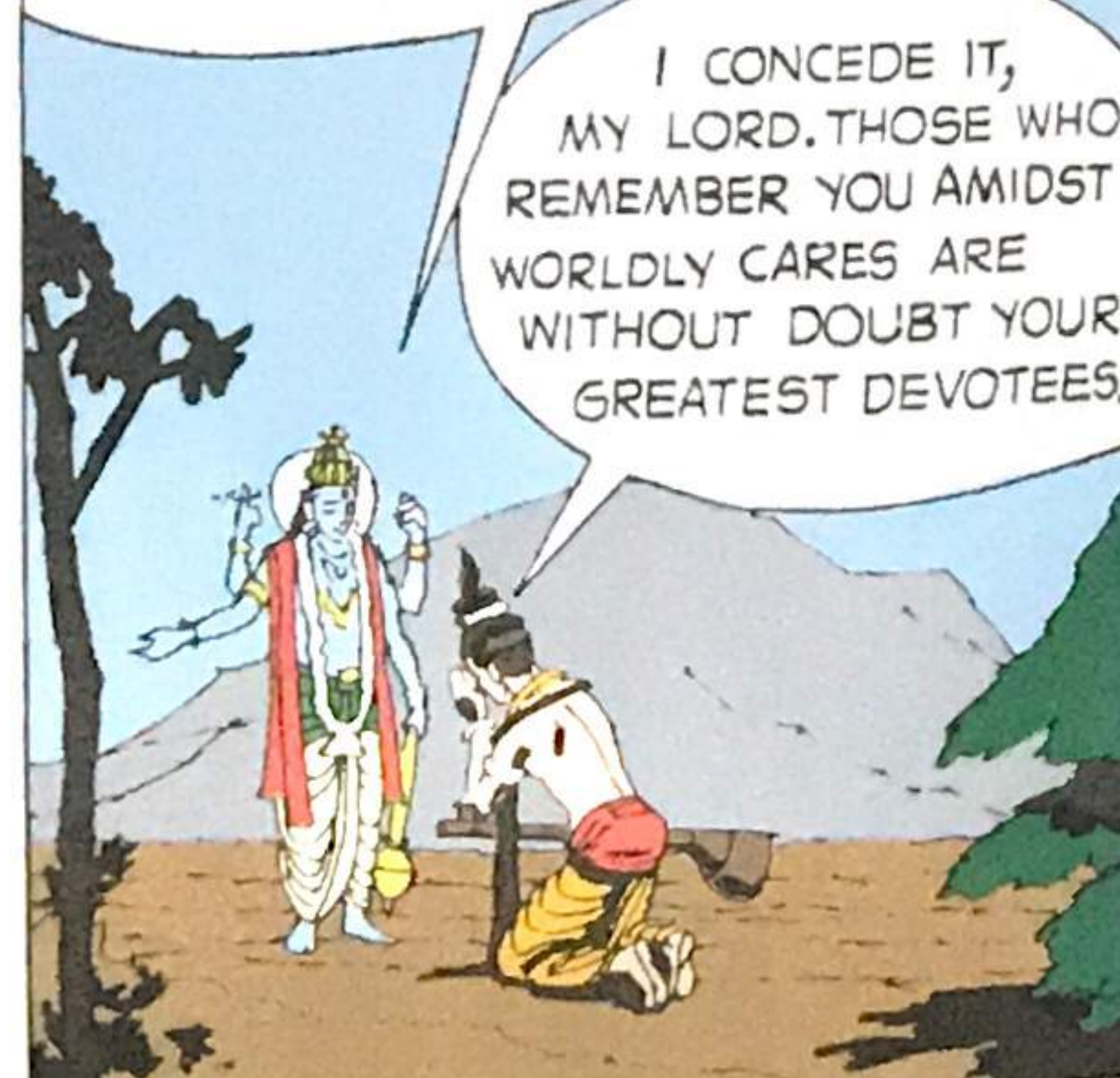
AH! AH! THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL! HAD I SLIPPED, THE OIL WOULD HAVE SPILT. I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL.



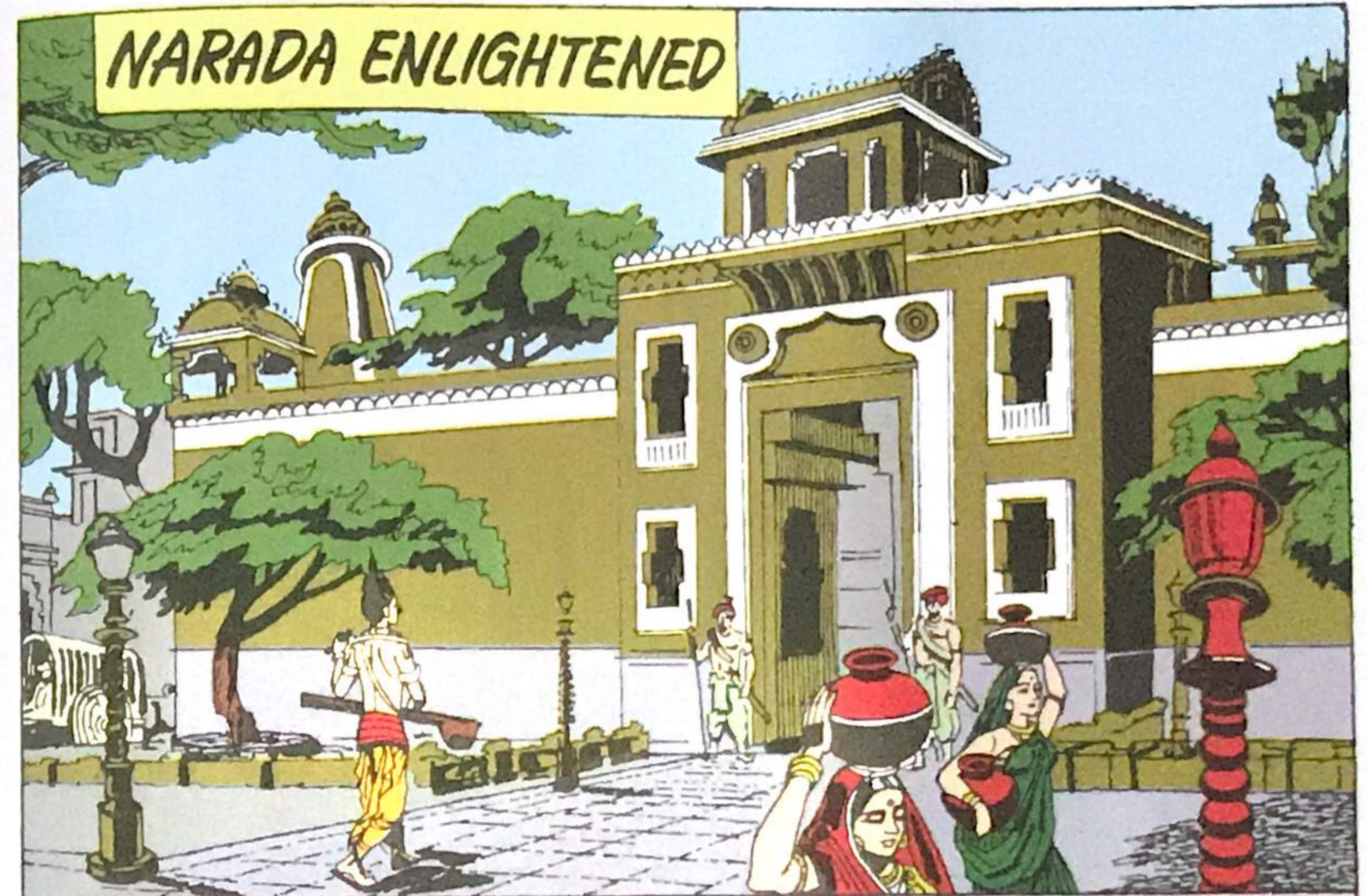
WHEN NARADA SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE ROUND—



THAT FARMER HAS HARD WORK TO DO. YET HE REMEMBERS ME — AT LEAST A FEW TIMES. WHILE YOU COULD NOT REMEMBER ME EVEN ONCE!



# NARADA ENLIGHTENED

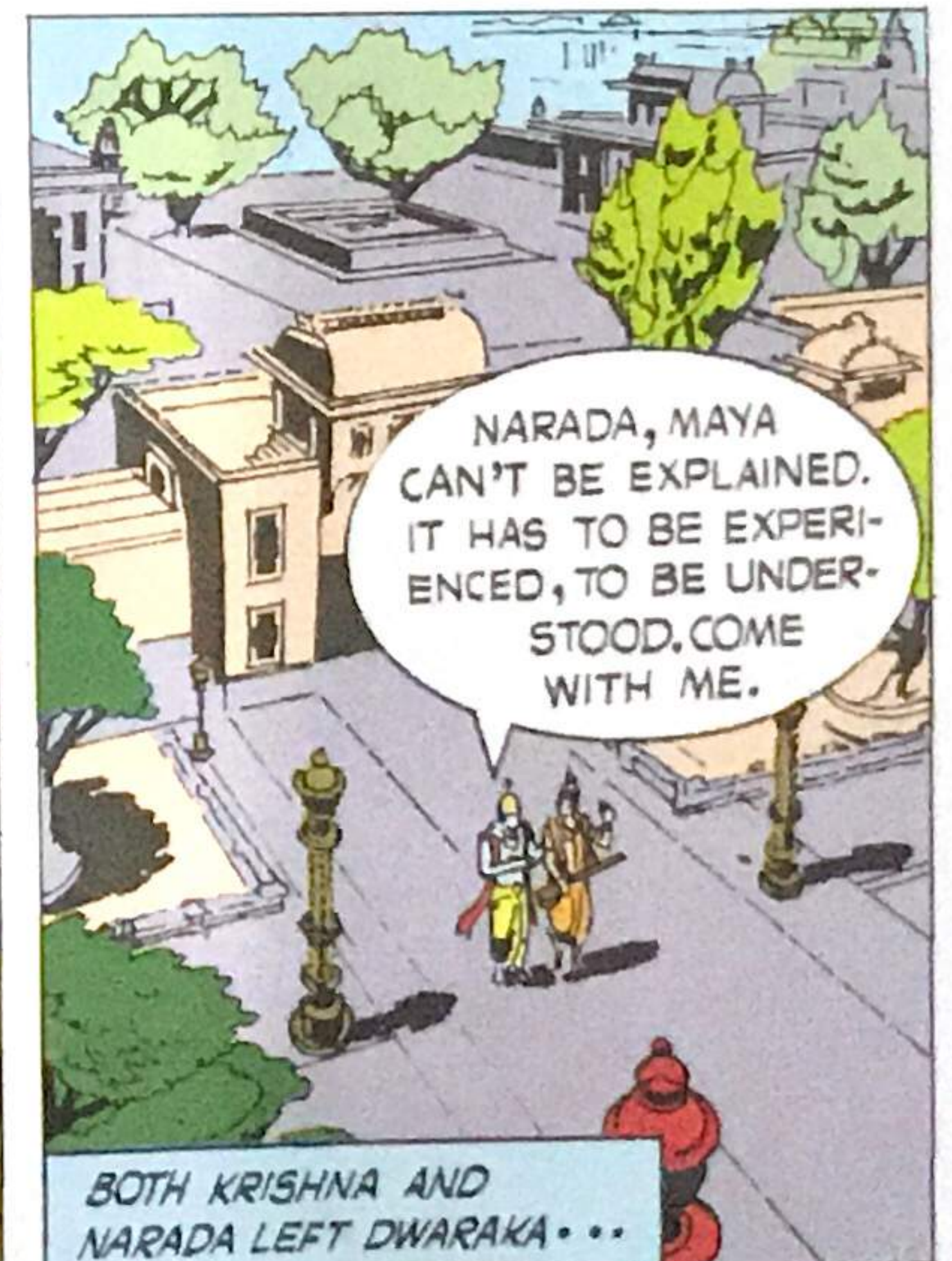


THE CELESTIAL SAGE, NARADA, ONCE CAME TO DWARAKA, TO SEE LORD KRISHNA.

WELCOME, NARADA. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

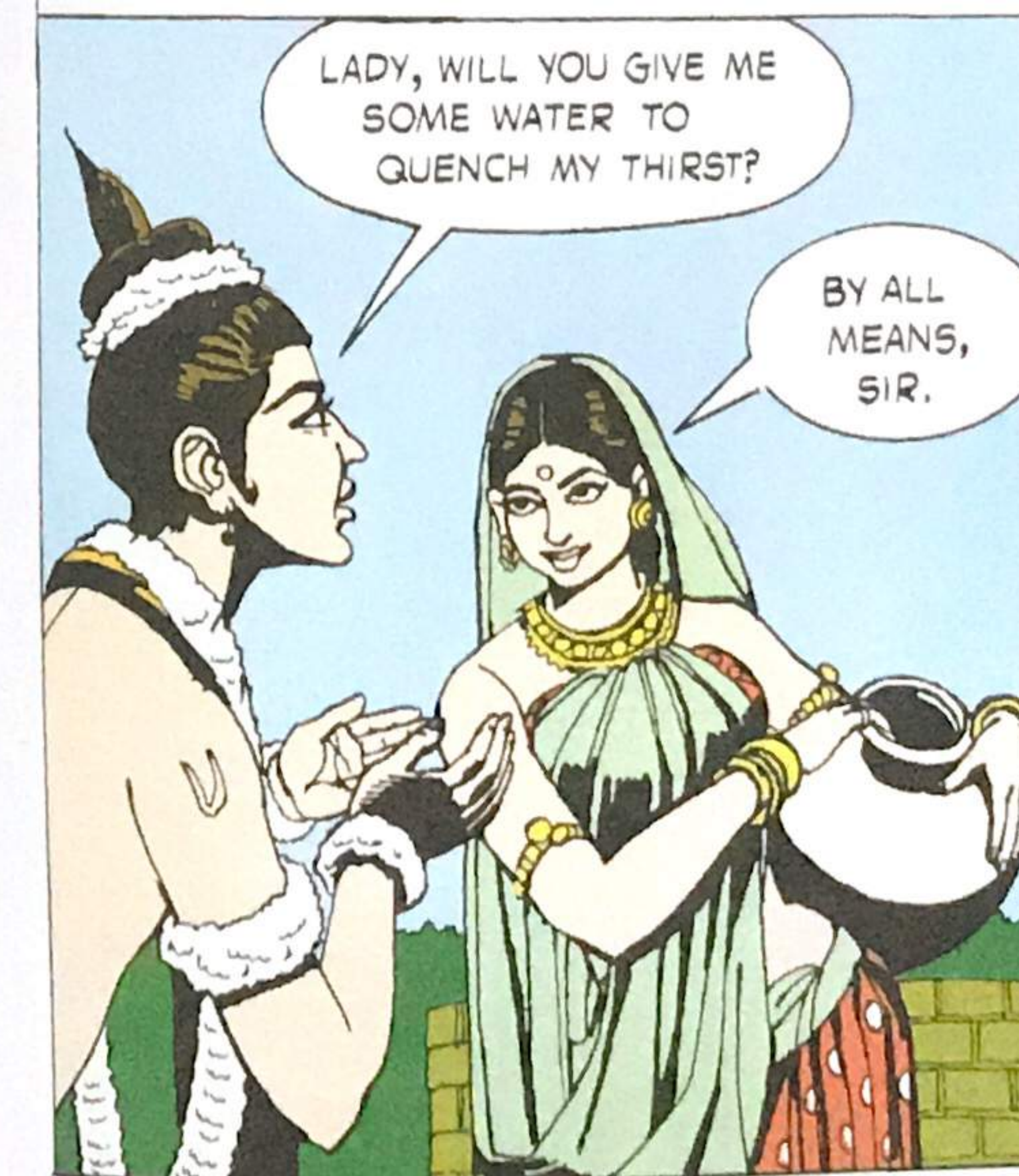
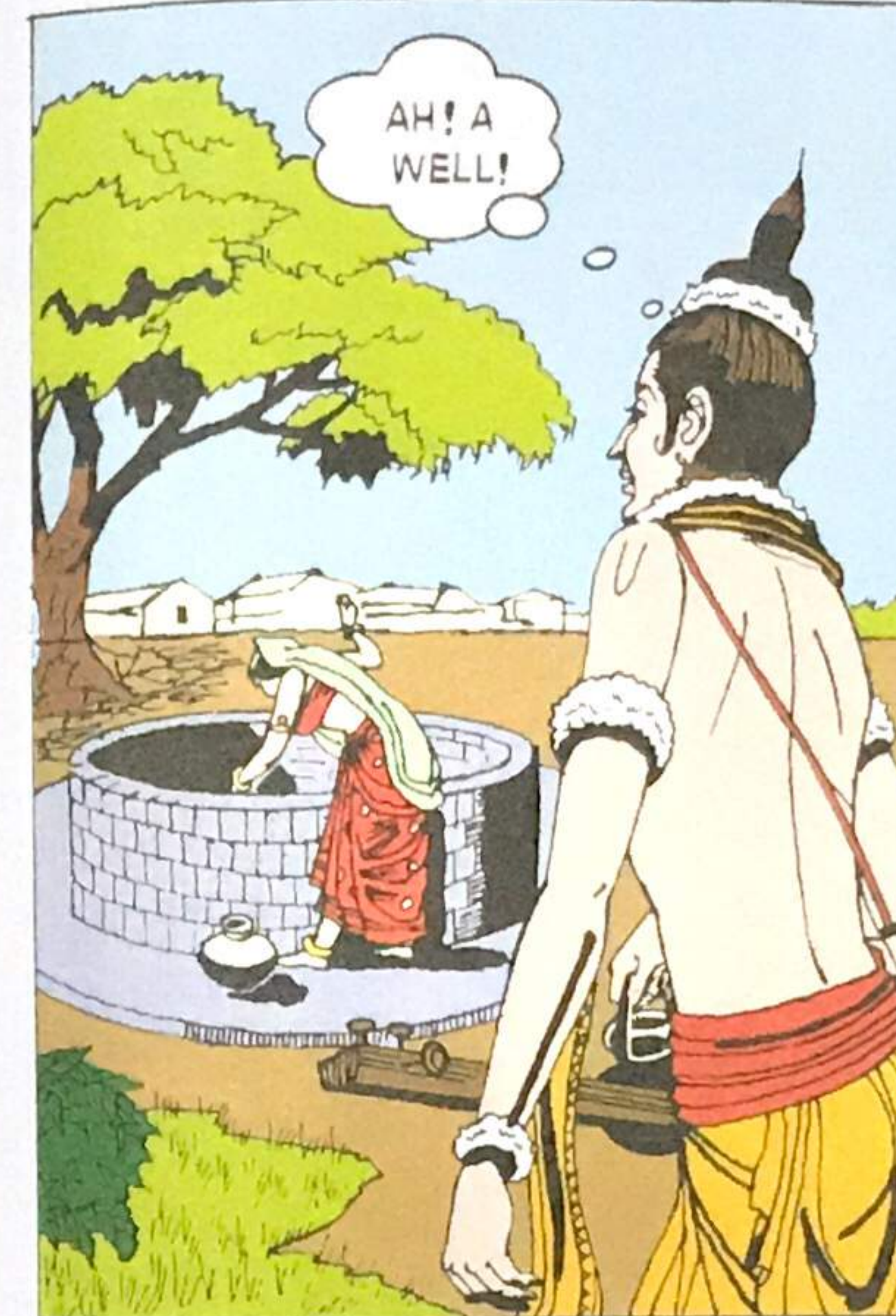
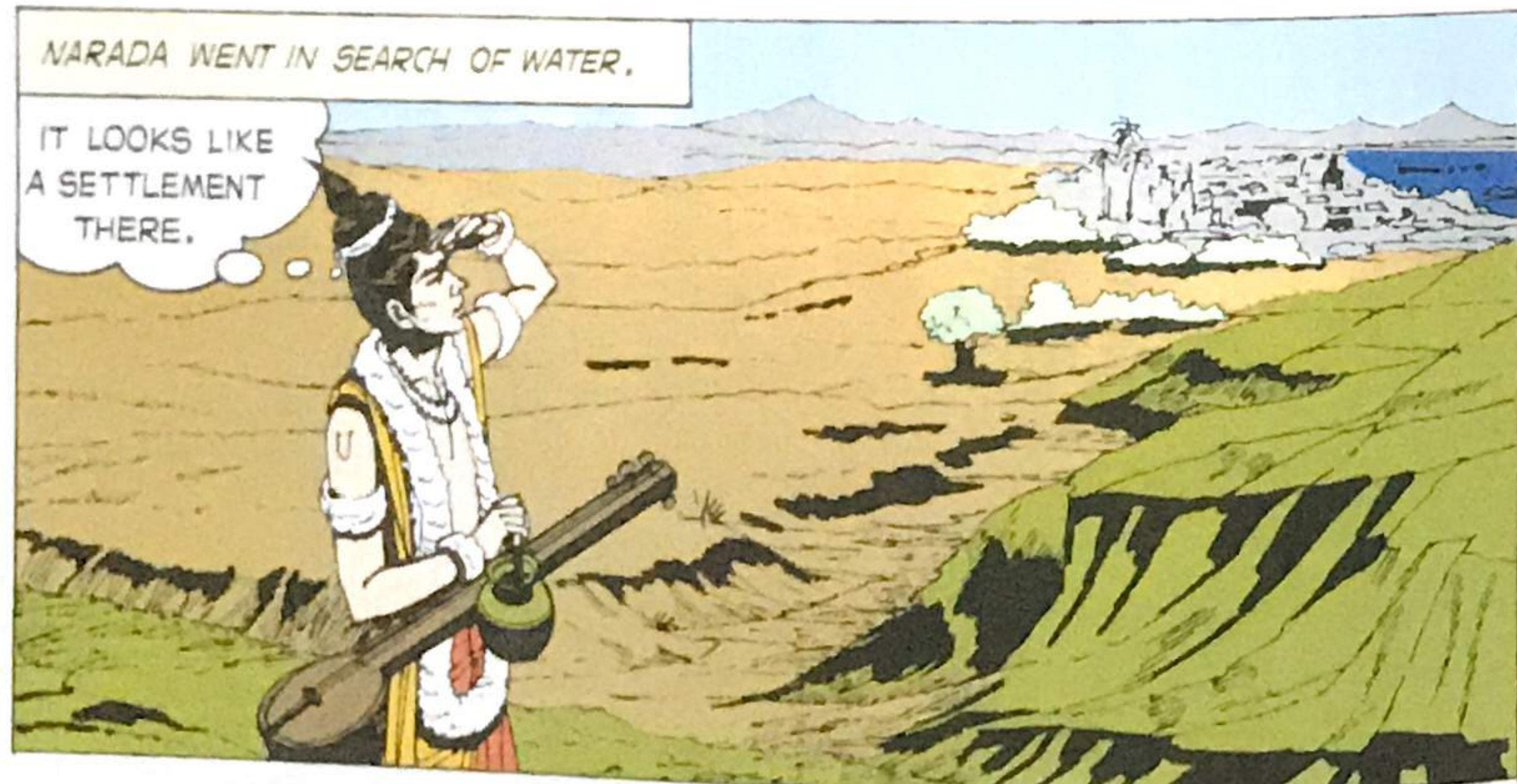
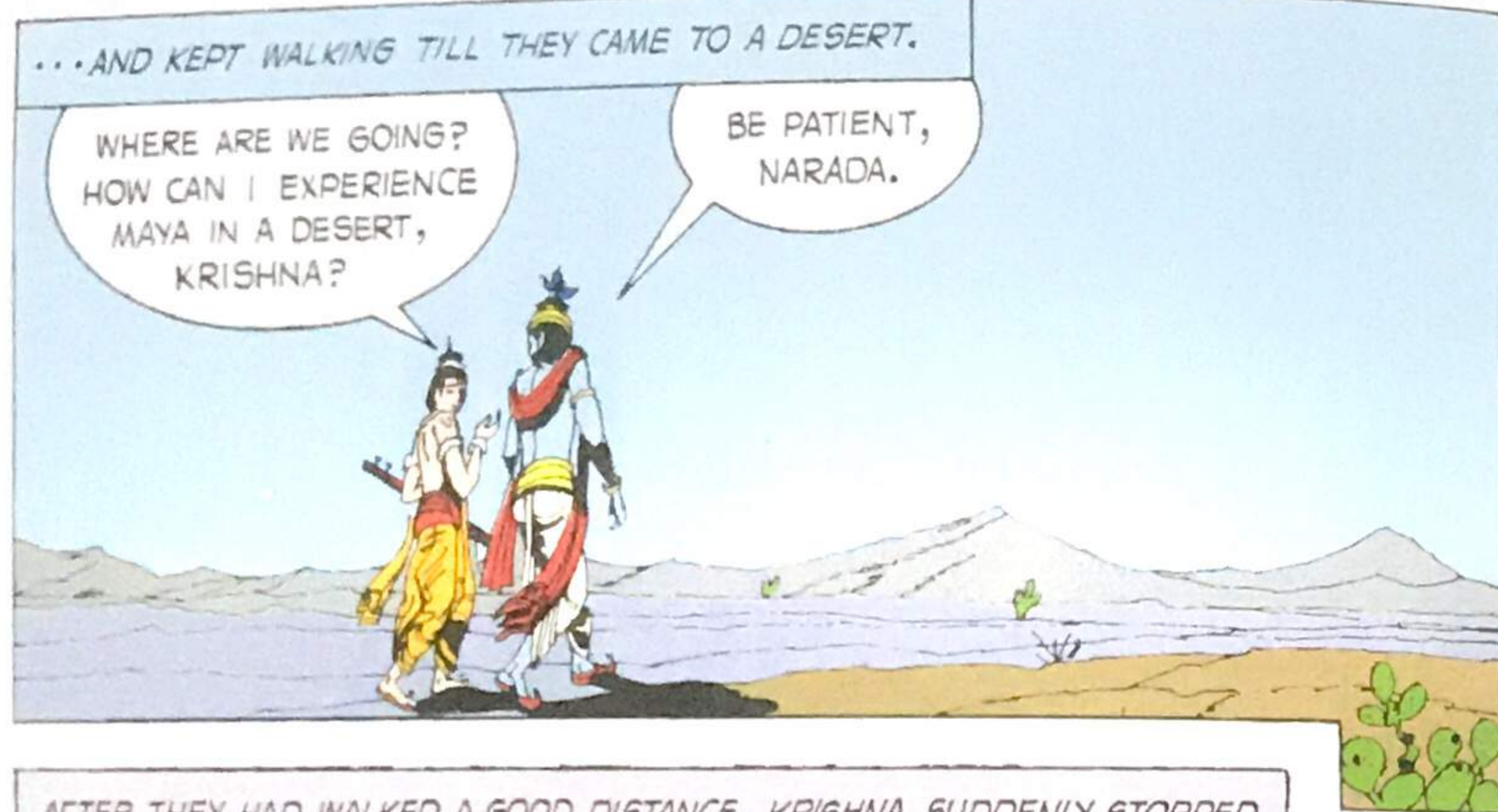


\* ILLUSION



BOTH KRISHNA AND NARADA LEFT DWARAKA...



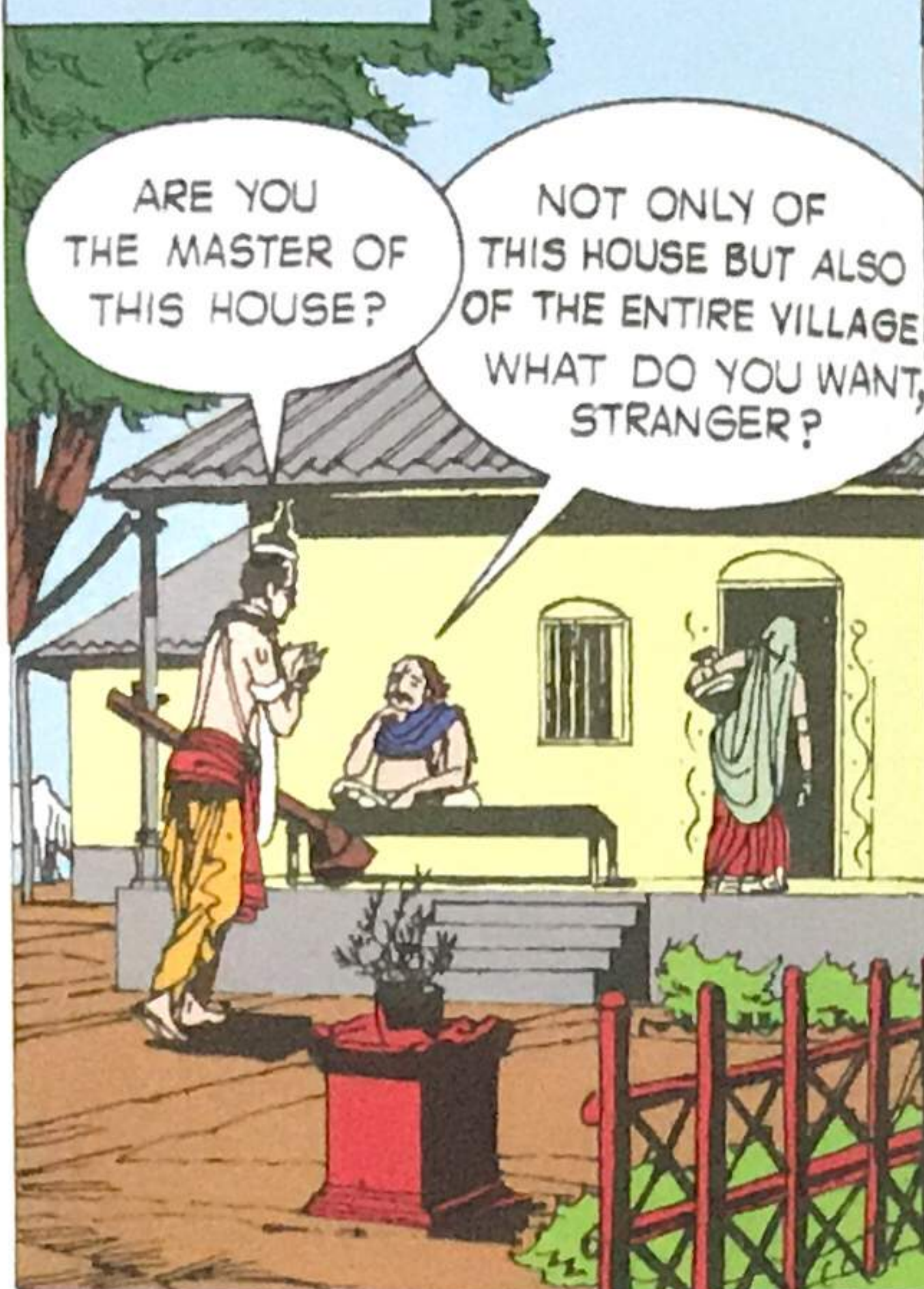




NARADA FOLLOWED THE DAMSEL...

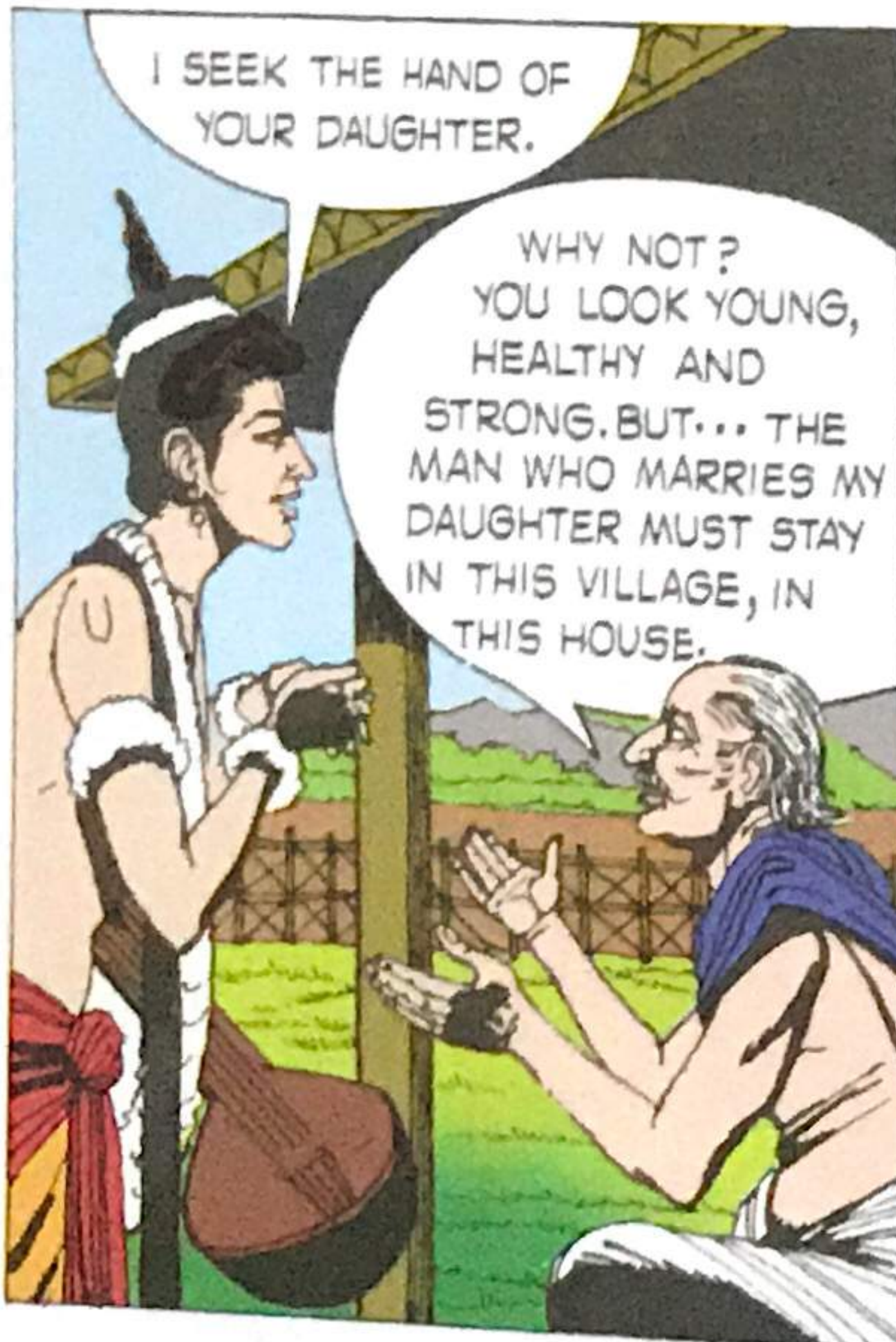


...TO HER HOUSE.



ARE YOU THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE?

NOT ONLY OF THIS HOUSE BUT ALSO OF THE ENTIRE VILLAGE. WHAT DO YOU WANT, STRANGER?



I SEEK THE HAND OF YOUR DAUGHTER.

WHY NOT? YOU LOOK YOUNG, HEALTHY AND STRONG. BUT... THE MAN WHO MARRIES MY DAUGHTER MUST STAY IN THIS VILLAGE, IN THIS HOUSE.



IS THAT ALL? I'M WILLING TO ABIDE BY YOUR CONDITION.

ANYTHING TO MAKE THAT GIRL MY WIFE.

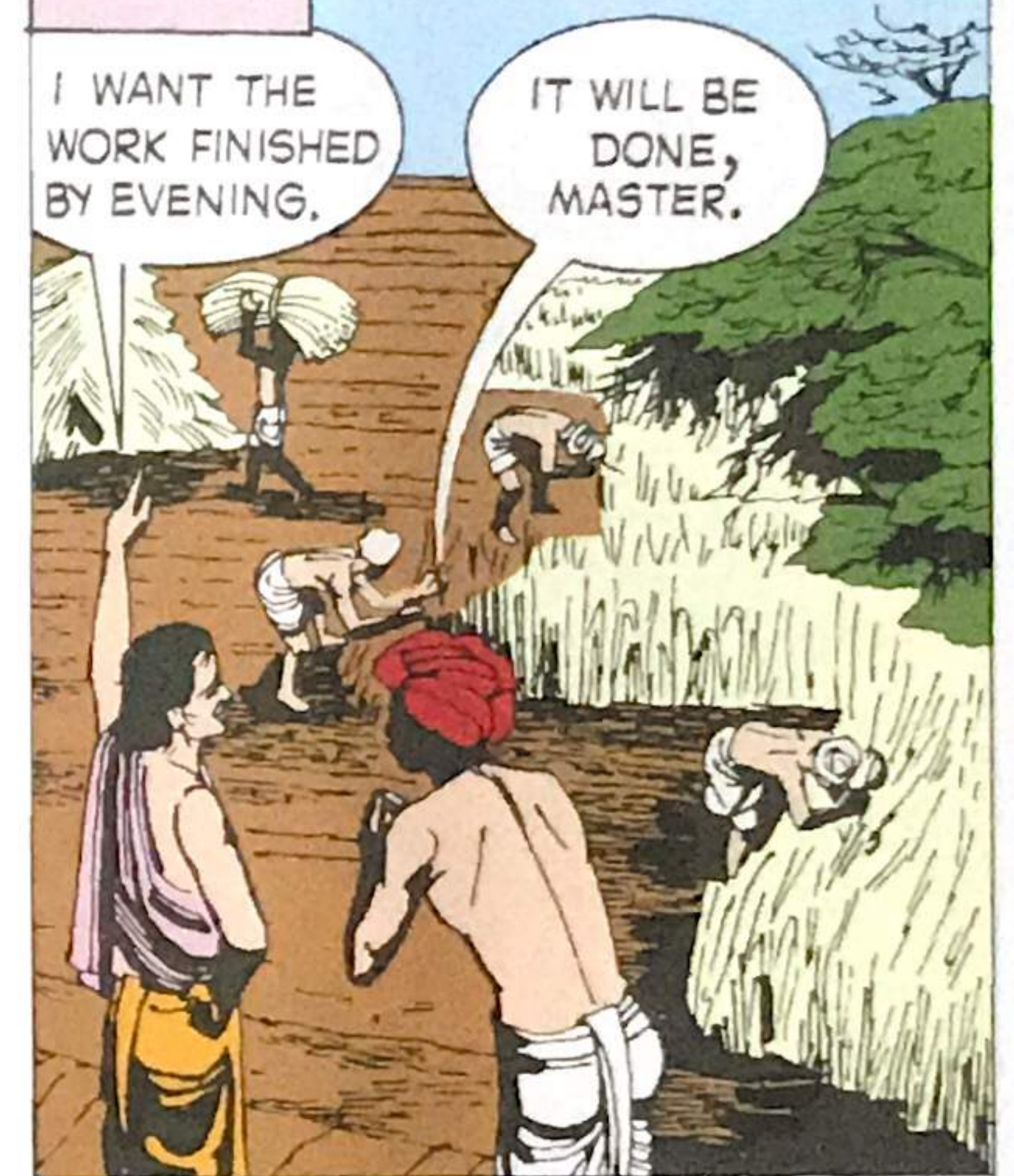
THE MARRIAGE SOON TOOK PLACE.



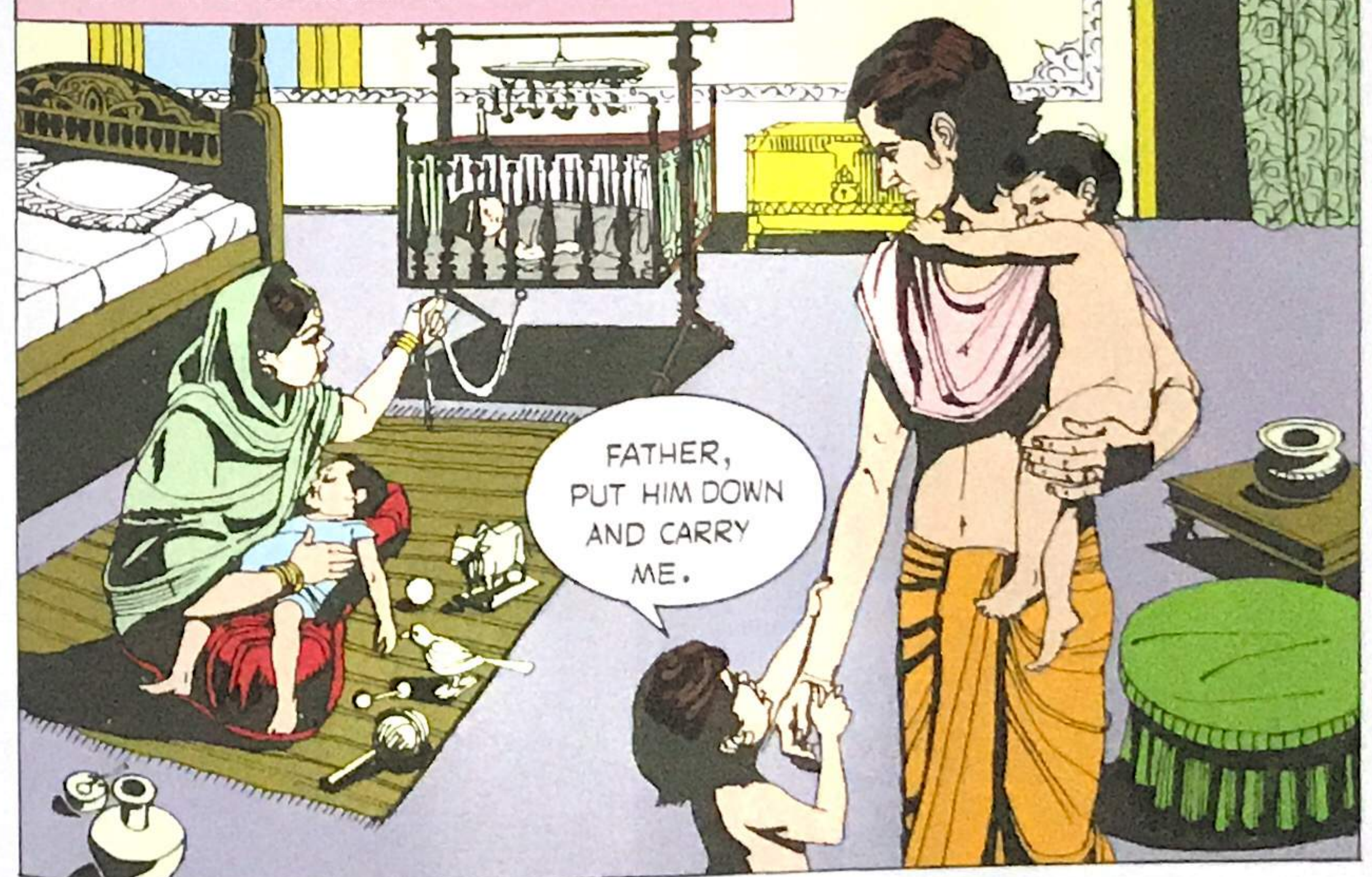
SOON AFTER THE MARRIAGE, THE OLD CHIEFTAIN DIED. NARADA HAD TO ASSUME HIS TITLE AND HIS RESPONSIBILITIES.

I WANT THE WORK FINISHED BY EVENING.

IT WILL BE DONE, MASTER.



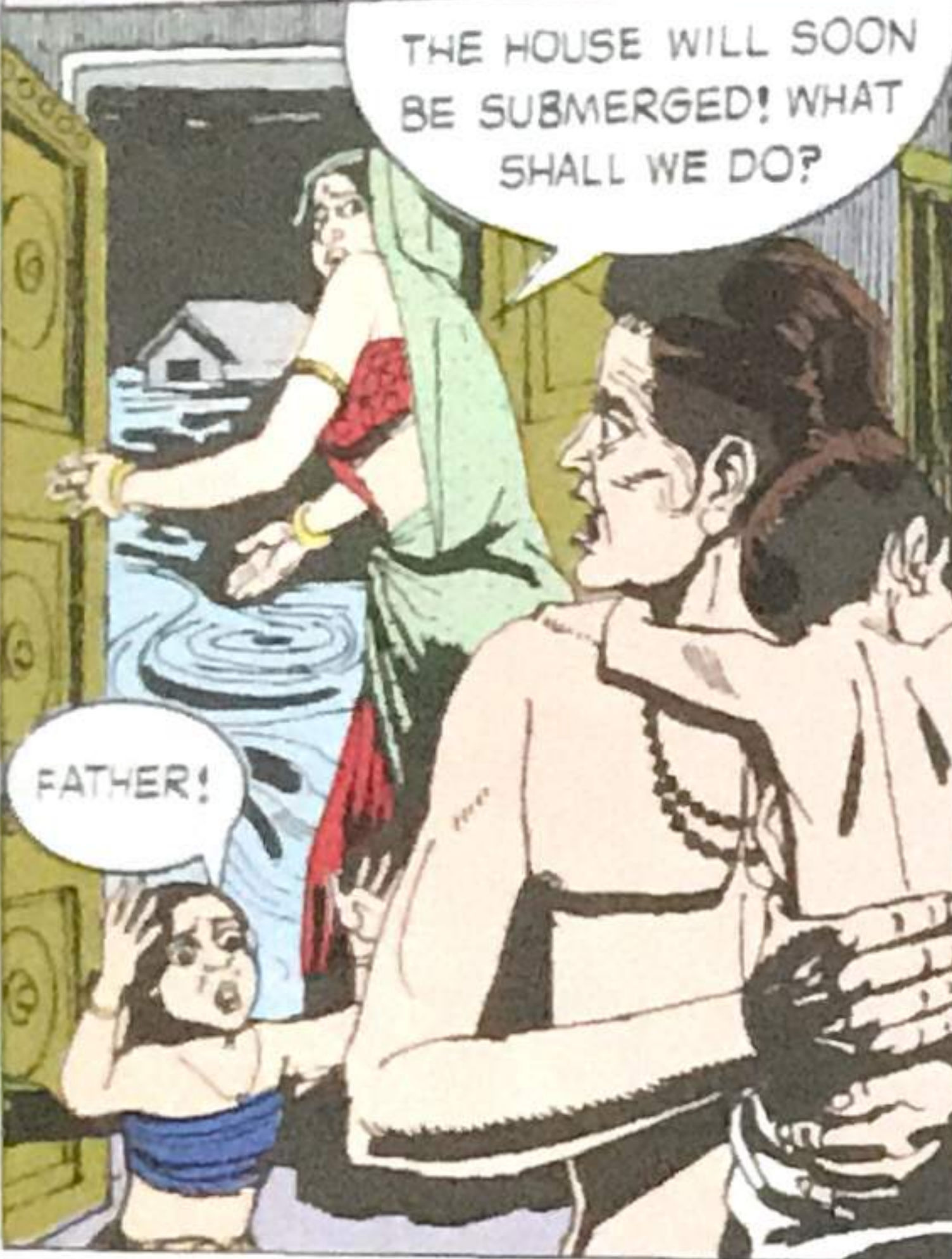
NARADA WAS BLESSED WITH FOUR CHILDREN.



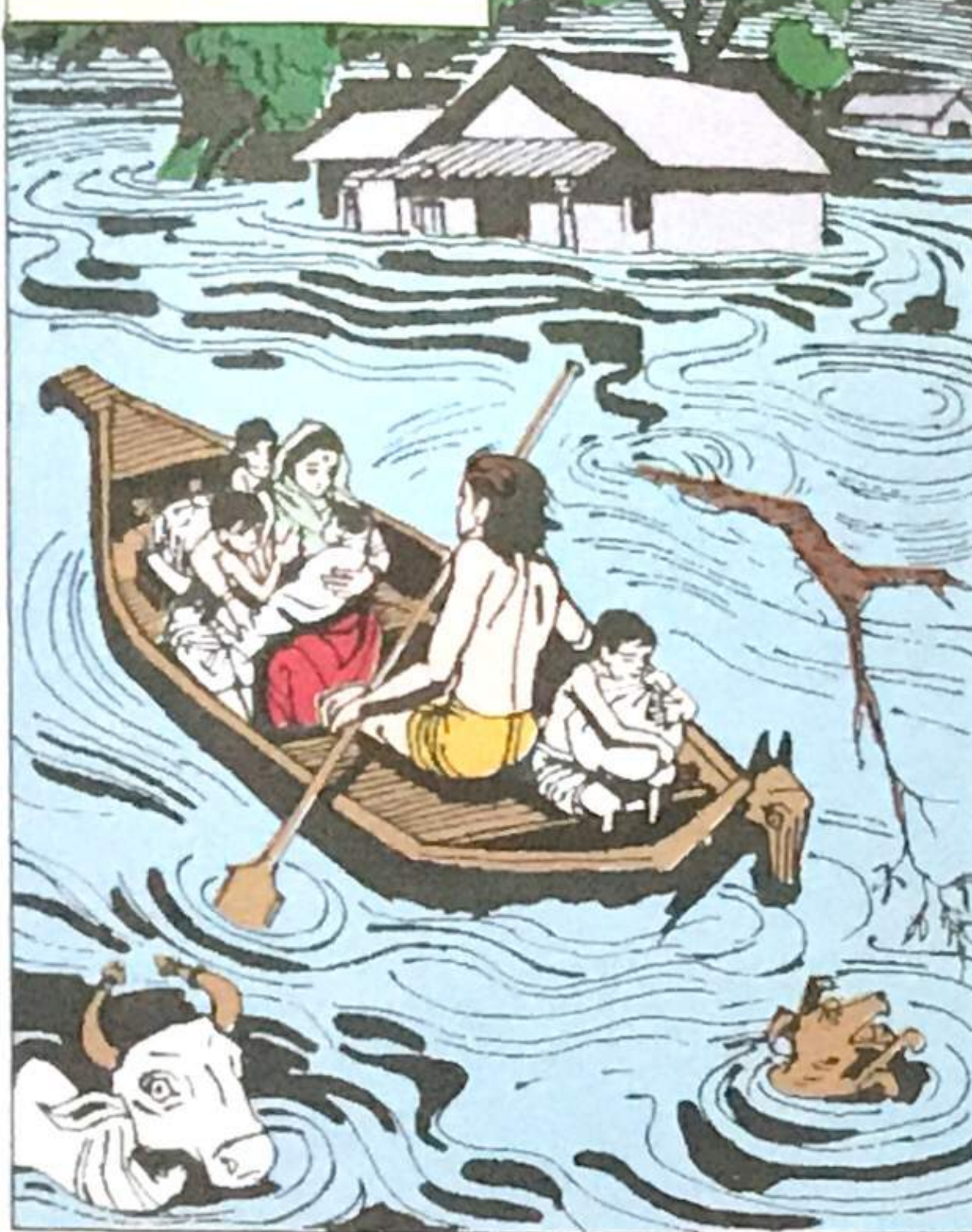
FATHER, PUT HIM DOWN AND CARRY ME.



WHEN NARADA WAS AT THE PEAK OF HIS SUCCESS, DISASTER CAME IN THE FORM OF CYCLONIC WINDS, RAIN AND FLOODS.



NARADA PUT HIS FAMILY INTO A BOAT AND TRIED TO KEEP AFLOAT, ON THE SWIRLING WATERS.



BUT THE BOAT CAPSIZED. NARADA TRIED IN VAIN TO SAVE HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.



A HUGE WAVE THREW NARADA ON TO THE SHORE.



SUDDENLY, HE HEARD A VOICE.



NARADA TURNED AND BEHELD KRISHNA.

KRISHNA! MY WIFE! MY CHILDREN! BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE.

COME TO YOUR SENSES, NARADA. THERE NEVER WAS ANY WIFE OR CHILDREN. IT WAS ALL MAYA.



I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ENLIGHTENING ME, KRISHNA. LIFE ITSELF IS AN ILLUSION FROM WHICH IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE. ONLY WITH YOUR GRACE CAN THIS ILLUSION BE CONQUERED!

